Sandwell
CHRONICLE

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JUDGE'S REPORT ON TUNISIA TERROR ATTACK DUE OUT SOON

Suzy Evans and son Owen who survived the attack

A REPORT by a top judge into the Tunisia terrorist attack which claimed the lives of three family members from the Black Country will be released in the coming months, it was revealed on the second anniversary of the massacre.

An inquest into the deaths of 30 British citizens concluded earlier this year after hearing about issues with security at the hotel, the police response and criticism of travel advice prior to families heading out on holiday.

Joel Richards, from Wednesbury, his uncle Adrian Evans, of Bilston and grandfather Patrick Evans, from Wednesbury, were among those killed in Sousse on June 26, 2015.

His Honour Judge Loraine-Smith has since taken further submissions from specialist lawyers at Irwin Mitchell representing 22 families who lost loved ones as well as tour operator TUI with which they booked their holidays and the Government.

He is expected to publish his report into possible action to learn lessons from the tragedy in the coming months.

Struggle

A criminal investigation in Tunisia is also ongoing with a hearing scheduled for October.

Suzy Evans, Joel's mother, said: "After losing three very precious family members during the Tunisian terror attack our supportive loyal and loving family will never be the same.

"We are shattered, broken and every day is a colossal struggle not having them here with us. In the midst of this heartache I am determined to stand strong for my remaining family, especially my remaining son Owen.

"Two years on I remain determined not to let the lives of my son Joel, my dad Pat and my brother Ade be forgotten. I want their names and beautiful caring ways to live on forever through their legacy.

"I want to make a difference in their name for others who have experienced losing someone they love in such a heart-breaking way. This is why we started Smile for Joel."

Cancer survivor to tackle Pretty Muddy obstacle course

BRAVE TOM FACES NEW CHALLENGE

CANCER survivor Tom Griffiths has watched with envy as his mother wallowed in mud, scrambling down sludgy slides and through boggy ground in the name of charity – this year he will join in the fun himself!

The eight-year-old supported his mother Emma from the sidelines when she took part in Cancer Research UK's Pretty Muddy event. So Tom – known to his mates as 'Tommy G' – was first in the queue when he heard that Race for Life was staging its first ever Pretty Muddy Kids.

By David Cosgrove

The Tipton schoolboy said he can't wait to emulate his mother and get covered in mud at the event which is designed specifically for children.

The course includes child-friendly mud-based obstacles and is around 2km long.

Tom was diagnosed with acute lymphoblastic leukaemia in 2013 at the age of four after complaining of persistent pains in his legs. Chemotherapy treatment meant Tom missed around half of his reception year at Tividale Community Primary School, but he made up for lost time when the intensive part of his treatment was over.

In July last year Tom finished his treatment and his family feel that life has returned to normal.

Emma, 42, said: "We thought we were going to lose him when we first heard the word 'cancer'. But amazingly Tom went into remission after only four weeks of treatment and he's never looked back. We're now down to appointments every four months and life is great.

"He's always been one for a bit of fun and he loves to get involved, so he was desperate to join in when I did Race for Life Pretty Muddy. He was delighted when he heard about Pretty Muddy Kids – it will be my turn to stand on the sidelines as he has a whale of a time and hurls mud at me."

Emma will not be missing out though – she is taking part in the adult Race for Life Pretty Muddy event at Cofton Park in Longbridge later the same day.

Emma added: "Tom is really excited about taking part in Pretty Muddy Kids and having an excuse to get really, really muddy.

"We hope boys and girls across the region will join him at Pretty Muddy Kids. It's a great opportunity to have fun while making a real difference in the fight against cancer."

From scramble nets and space hoppers to mud chutes and a 'Muddy Paws' race, children will face a range of obstacles to crawl under, clamber over and charge through.

The Race for Life family of events also includes the 5km Pretty Muddy adult course, which thousands of women will take part in at the same venue on July 15.

Jane Redman, Cancer Research UK's spokesman for the West Midlands, said: "We're delighted that Cofton Park will be hosting one of our first Pretty Muddy Kids events. Race for Life events are not competitive and children can complete the course at their own pace, climbing, jumping, walking and laughing their way around."

Cancer survivor Tom Griffiths, aged eight, gets ready for a 'muddy good time' with his mum Emma

CRIME

Passenger punched in train race attack

A TRAIN passenger was punched in what police believe was a racially motivated assault.

The 24-year-old man was on a train travelling between Birmingham New Street and Birmingham International at around 8pm on June 2 when a man sitting opposite him began to insult him and other passengers.

The abusive man then punched the victim in the face and made a racist comment, before getting off the train at Birmingham International.

Pc Piotr Gass from British Transport Police said: "We absolutely will not tolerate any level of violence or hate crime, and we take all reports of such offences extremely seriously."

FUNDING

Online appeal for repairs to church

A BLACKHEATH church in need of major repairs has set up a JustGiving page.

The 150th Anniversary Appeal Fund was launched last month after an inspection report on St Paul's Church, in Long Lane, revealed problems with the roof and guttering.

The fund is aimed at raising around £40,000. And it is hoped the work will be done in time for 2019 – the 150th year anniversary. Visit www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/StPaulsBlackheath

CONMEN

Rogue traders on prowl, police warn

HOMEOWNERS have been warned to be on their guard following reports of rogue traders operating in Tipton.

Sandwell's trading standards said they had been operating in Upper Church Lane, offering guttering replacement services.

People across the borough have been urged to make sure they know who is at their door before they hand over any money or agree for work to be done.

The latest scam warning comes after a man in his 80s was targeted in Tipton last week, almost losing £20,000 after handing over his card details before his bank stepped in to block the transaction.

INSIDE

HILL OF A GUY IN PINT TO PROVE

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CONTACT US

EDITORIAL:
Tel: 01384 353201/01384 353205
E-mail: sandwell.chronicle@expressandstar.co.uk

SPORTS:
Tel: 01902 319453
E-mail: chron.sport@expressandstar.co.uk

PHOTOGRAPHIC: Tel: 01902 319430
E-mail: picturedesk@expressandstar.co.uk
ADVERTISING: Nicola Cope
Tel: 01902 319573
E-mail: nicola.cope@expressandstar.co.uk

PROPERTY: Colin Bailey
Tel: 01902 313131 ext 3731
E-mail: colin.bailey@expressandstar.co.uk

MOTORING: Stuart Whitehead
Tel: 01902 319177
E-mail: stuart.whitehead@expressandstar.co.uk

CLASSIFIED:
Tel: 01902 317878
E-mail: my-classified@expressandstar.co.uk

DISTRIBUTION: Paul Jones
Tel: 01902 319990
E-mail: p.jones@expressandstar.co.uk

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Graffiti pest jailed after £34k damage

Vandal Ashley Byrd

A PROLIFIC graffiti vandal is now behind bars after a spray paint spree that ended up costing rail bosses more than £34,000. Ashley Byrd, aged 24, left his 'tag' at stations in the Black Country, and was finally caught after a dramatic police chase on rail tracks.

He was caught in an operation launched when 18 trains were vandalised in just 12 days. Byrd would get on to the lines via a metal post and lie in wait in a tunnel as trains arrived into Birmingham New Street.

As trains waited to come into the station, he would spray carriages just below the window. He was finally arrested on Tuesday December 27 last year, when a driver who was coming into New Street at around 7pm spotted him on the tracks. Officers found him hiding in the tunnel and he fled. But police officers knew which way he would try to escape and were waiting for him at the other end. His presence on the lines that evening caused delays totalling 467 minutes, costing Network Rail £30,556.

Carriage clean-up work cost £3,500.

Sketch books found at his house, on Inverness Road, Northfield, revealed tags matching those on the trains. Traces of paint on his clothes matched that used on trains and at Dudley Port station, while his phone records linked him to times and dates when graffiti was scrawled at Coseley and Tipton stations.

Byrd went on to admit obstruction, trespass and criminal damage. He was sent to jail for eight weeks and ordered to pay train operators CrossCountry and London Midland compensation of £3,772 in total. Pc Dave Rich from BTP said: "Byrd's actions delayed passengers and the cost to clean his graffiti will undoubtedly be passed onto the travelling public in some form."

Profits plummet at 2 Sisters parent firm

THE parent company of 2 Sisters Food Group, which was due to closed its Smethwick poultry plant this month, has seen a big drop in profits.

In the three months to April 29 Boparan Holdings saw pre-tax profits drop £10.9 million to £9.4m. Its European poultry business has also been hit by bird flu outbreaks.

The Birmingham-based food manufacturing group's total sales were up 4.8 per cent to £821.9m for the quarter.

Ranjit Singh Boparan, chief executive of 2 Sisters Food Group, said: "This was a tough trading quarter for the business, but there are clear signs in the top line performance that we are pursuing the right strategy to deliver sales and margin performance improvements.

"The competitive landscape remains challenging and our sector faces currency fluctuations which have brought about higher input prices. In addition, our European poultry export business in both Poland and the Netherlands has been affected by avian influenza outbreaks on the continent, and we have experienced some restructuring costs elsewhere.

Cutting

"Our protein footprint programme is progressing well and will ensure we have the right product, in the right location at the right time. Latest developments include expanding our cutting facilities in Scotland and reconfiguring our supply chain to achieve a leaner structure.

"Following consultation, we have announced the closure of one of our Birmingham sites. We have also strengthened our commitment to reduce poultry waste by agreeing a three-year surplus supply contract with Crawshaws Butchers."

The group has appointed a new chief financial oficer. Richard Pike officially joins the business on July 17 and will join the Boparan Holdings board. He most recently worked for Associated British Foods as managing director of British Sugar.

The poultry plant in Bevan Way, Alpha Business Park,Smethwick, which employed 630 people was due to shut on June 23. Some 250 of the staff took voluntary redundancy with others redeployed.

First bricks for £9.6m scheme

Councillor Kerrie Carmichael, Neil Baxter and Councillor Ann Shackleton laying the first bricks for the scheme

THE first bricks have been laid on the site of a £9.6 million supported housing scheme.

Sandwell Council is developing 93 new affordable homes, which will be made up of 58 apartments and 35 bungalows, in Oxford Road, West Bromwich.

They are being built by Keepmoat Regeneration. The scheme, which includes four bungalows that are especially designed for wheelchair users, will provide much-needed homes for people with a range of health issues. Councillor Ann Shackleton, cabinet member for social care, said: "We are one step closer to providing spacious accommodation to enable independent living with the provision of care and support being tailored to meet individual needs.

"The ethos of this supported housing scheme is to give tenants a chance to help each other and make a valued contribution to their community." Councillor Shackleton also praised Keepmoat for the work it was doing by keeping residents up-to-date with the development, alongside working closely with schools to deliver talks on health and safety, and career opportunities in construction.

Councillor Kerrie Carmichael, cabinet member for housing, said: "As well as contributing to the regeneration of the area, once built, these homes will become part of the council's housing stock." The project is set to be completed next March.

MBE joy for two experts in their field at council

TWO members of staff at Sandwell Council are thrilled to have been awarded MBEs in the Queen's Birthday Honours List.

The council's principal parking and road safety officer Anjna Morarji Patel (also known as Kira Fleck) and Dr Kevin Rowland, who heads up the council's inclusive learning team, have both been given MBEs to acknowledge their outstanding work in their respective fields.

Dr Kevin Rowland

Anjna Morarji Patel

Anjna has dedicated her whole career to parking and road safety. Born in Uganda in the back of a Land Rover, Anjna started out as a traffic warden for West Midlands Police before moving to the council where she has spent nearly 40 years working to keep Sandwell's roads safe.

Anjna is also a chair of the board and a director at the British Parking Association. She runs a successful charity to help injured soldiers which has raised hundreds of thousands of pounds since she set it up in 2008. Anjna said: "It is a great honour to be recognised."

Meanwhile, Kevin was born in Birmingham and has dedicated his career to working with children. He started out as a primary school teacher before moving into educational psychology.

Kevin has worked all over the country but always wanted to return to his home routes in the Midlands and has been with Sandwell Council for the past seven years.

He said: "I want to dedicate this honour to all the children I have worked with during my career and will continue to do my very best in making a real difference to young people's lives."

Apprenticeship event on way

ANYONE interested in an apprenticeship with Sandwell Council is invited to find out more at the Council House in Oldbury on Thursday July 6.

The event, which is on from 2.30-6.30pm in the council chambers, is open to people of any age. Council apprentices who are already working for the council as well as the council's employment team will be on hand to give advice, chat about vacancies and how to apply.

Sandwell Council's cabinet member for regeneration and investment Councillor Paul Moore said: "Apprenticeships are a great way to earn while you learn, get work experience and put some money in your pocket without leaving you with debt."

For help and more information about the event, call 0121 569 2099.

Call for both young and old to try free swims

SANDWELL residents under 16 and over 60 can register for free swimming at any of Sandwell's leisure centres. Young people aged 16 and under in Sandwell can swim for free at any public swimming session at Sandwell leisure centres during the school holidays.

Older people living in Sandwell – aged 60-plus – can also swim for free up to 1pm daily, all year round.

Free swimming is available for all residents who meet the criteria – all people need is to register and take proof of their address.

The free swimming programme has been run by Sandwell Council for several years and it's been extended until March 2018.

Councillor Richard Marshall, cabinet member for leisure said: "I am delighted we provide free swimming in Sandwell for young and older residents.

"We have some fantastic swimming facilities in Sandwell to enjoy. Residents can register online for the free sessions with Sandwell Leisure Trust or with Places for People Leisure at reception in West Bromwich Leisure Centre.

"Alternatively, staff will help anyone directly at our swimming centres in West Bromwich, Smethwick, Wednesbury, Langley in Oldbury, Tipton or Haden Hill in Cradley Heath."

He added: "People's safety is our top priority and I encourage young people and anyone else who is learning to swim to do so in a safe environment by using anyone of our swimming centres where there are trained members of staff on hand to help support new learners."

Further details and information on how to register are available at www.sandwell.gov.uk/leisure

Witness appeal after shots fired

GUN shots were fired outside a school and near to a hospital, prompting a police investigation.

Two shots are believed to have been fired at a cyclist from a white car at 2.40pm, last Wednesday. Detectives are appealing for witnesses and information from the public.

The incident took place near St Edmunds Primary School, in Rosebury Street, within the Springhill area of Birmingham. Around half a mile away is Birmingham City Hospital, run by Sandwell and West Birmingham NHS Trust.

Detectives are keen to establish more details about the white car from which the shots were fired and are also asking for the cyclist to come forward.

Det Insp Richard Marsh, from Force CID, said: "We believe there were a number of people outside the school and I would urge them to get in touch with us as soon as possible."

Pupils Believe in their charity CD

Pupils at the St James Church school

A PRIMARY school has recorded a song to raise funds for a cancer charity started by a boy who died of a brain tumour aged 11.

All pupils at St James Church of England Primary School in Oldbury took part in recording single Believe.

The school plans to sell the CD in the community in the next few weeks, with the aim of raising £1,000 for Help Harry Help Others.

Harry Moseley, who went to school in Sheldon, Birmingham, organised and attended nearly 100 events while battling an inoperable brain tumour to raise funds and awareness for brain cancer. He died in 2011, aged 11, but his spirit very much lives on through the charity.

St James' deputy headteacher, Alex Rawlings, said: "I think the children were quite surprised that it was all being recorded professionally. They were excited about that and knowing it will be on a CD. It's a massively positive thing, and the children really went for it."

Alongside the recording, the school have run the Help Harry Help Others bracelet enterprise – making and selling bracelets to raise money. They have held other fundraising projects too and a school competition to design the CD cover, which was won by Sophia Banner.

"The CDs are being produced now, with Sophia's cover, and we hope to be able to go out and sell them in the next couple of weeks," said Mr Rawlings. "We hope to raise £1,000, and that's with the Help Harry Help Others bracelets pupils have made and been selling."

To make a donation to the charity, visit hhho.org.uk.

Hill top to make his pint as marathon pub-goer

AN ALE enthusiast who has visited more than 20,000 pubs across the country can now boast he has had a pint in virtually every pub in the Midlands.

Peter Hill has pulled off the impressive achievement of visiting a mammoth 11,897 pubs many counties around central England.

It has taken the 61-year-old from West Bromwich 33 years to visit 11,897 pubs in the region.

Early this year, the Black Country Ale Tairsters which he founded in 1984, visited its record-breaking 20,000th pub.

The group has now been to 20,235 pubs around the country.

The ale enthusiasts have done it all for charity and raised thousands of pounds in the process.

Peter said: "I have visited 11,897 pubs in the Midlands. That is almost all of them been, but a few new ones have since opened up that I have to visit.

"I have also visited every pub in Wales and a total of 20,235 across the country.

Charity

"Between where I live and the Irish Sea, there isn't a pub I haven't been to."

Peter raises money for charity by asking staff from each pub to donate a small sum of cash.

He said: "I ask them for a £1. Some give me £1, some £2 and some £5."

He wears a custom made waistcoat on his travels, which his partner of 29 years made for him from bar towels sewn together.

The coat has a colourful array of badges pinned to it, which proves a talking point when Peter goes into new pubs.

Peter is now retired, having been an engineer, and has two children. He keeps a record of his journeys in a room at his house where dozens of folders are stacked on shelves.

"I have records from pub number one right the way through to 20,235. I am close to drinking my 47,000th."

Peter limits how much he drinks each year to 1,500 pints per year.

He travels to pubs across the country with the help of his friends from the Black Country Ale Tairsters.

"I can pick up to 20 people to come along with me," he said.

The group collectively raise money for charity.

Peter has travelled to pubs across Birmingham and the Black Country in the West Midlands as well as Staffordshire, Shropshire, Worcestershire, Herefordshire, Warwickshire, Nottinghamshire, Leicestershire, Northamptonshire, Derbyshire, Gloucestershire, Oxfordshire and Rutland.

He drives down to each pub from his home in West Bromwich.

But is that expensive on fuel? "Blimey, I have travelled 300,000 miles, so regarding cost in petrol, work that one out," he said.

Peter spent seven years visiting all the pubs in Wales, and he has dedicated the last two years to Nottinghamshire.

In total, Peter has raised more than £24,000 for various charity from his pub visits.

He now plans to visit the new pubs in the Midlands which he has missed while travelling about.

Peter is also aiming to visit pubs in counties which are further afield.

Peter Hill in his special room at his home, which features records every single trip to pubs he has made

NEWS IN BRIEF

Training firm in floor takeover

APPRENTICESHIP, training and education provider Succeed has taken part of the first floor at Landchard House.

The deal, put together by West Bromwich agents Bond Wolfe, has seen the firm agree a five-year lease on 2,173 sq ft of space. There is now just one suite remaining in the Victoria Street building.

Bond Wolfe managing partner James Mattin said: "Succeed is opening an office and training centre in the Black Country enabling them to reach a wider audience."

Extra dates for top comedians

COMEDIANS Jason Manford and Paul Chowdhry will be performing extra dates in Dudley.

The pair's shows at Dudley Town Hall are selling so well an extra date has been added for each in 2018.

Chowdhry, performing his show Live Innit in Dudley on October 12, will now have a second date on February 23 next year. Manford, at the town hall with his latest show Muddle Class on April 27 next year, will return for a second date on October 3. For more information, or to book, visit boroughhalls.co.uk or call 01384 812812.

Motorpoint set to mark birthday

A CAR retailer is planning a party next month to celebrate the first anniversary of its site opening in the Black Country.

Motorpoint will have been open on Churchbridge, in Oldbury for exactly one year on July 1. It is marking the occasion with a family fun day between 11am and 4pm.

The event will include giant inflatables, and different activities for children. There will also be a free barbecue and goody bags for all visitors.

Coffee, cake and mental wellbeing

A FREE coffee and cake mental health and wellbeing drop-in event is being held in Dudley.

Summit House Support and the Dudley and Walsall Mental Health Partnership NHS Trust are inviting people to come and meet mental health community development workers at the event.

It is being held at Summit House, which is based in North Street, on Wednesday, July 5, from 10am to 12 noon.

Mill open for fun day

UPPER Gornal's landmark Ruiton Windmill will be open to the public for a community event next weekend.

The annual Upper Gornal Fun Day is being held at the Vale Street Recreation Ground on Saturday, July 8, from noon to 4pm. The event will feature High Arcal School Band.

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COUNTY NEWS

Leap at chance to help salmon

PEOPLE are being invited to get involved in a new project to encourage salmon to return to a Black Country river. The Salmon in the Stour project involves the Environment Agency, Severn Rivers Trust, Birmingham and Black Country Wildlife Trust and Worcestershire Wildlife Trust.

A free workshop takes place tonight, Thursday, at Himley Hall from 2pm to gather information about the River Stour. It is hoped the research will help to establish who uses the river, for what purpose and in what ways use can be improved.

M6 Toll boost after takeover

THE new owners of the M6 Toll have received a £500 million vote of confidence from a string of investors including the UK's pensions lifeboat.

The Pension Protection Fund is part of a pool of investors backing a £500m investment by the huge Allianz Global Investors (AllianzGI) group in the UK's only pay-as-you-go motorway. It comes just days after it was revealed the motorway had been bought by Australian investment group IFM.

The M6 Toll has lost money since it first opened in 2003, weighed down by the £900m cost of construction.

Safety advice on picnic food

CRUCIAL safety advice has been issued as a guide to picnickers in the West Midlands. The Safe Summer Food guide addresses relevant concerns and gives top tips on food safety.

More than 1.8 million people in the West Midlands plan to get out into the great outdoors for a picnic this summer according to the Food Standards Agency, but in a survey, a quarter of people are concerned about picnic food hygiene. Go to www.food.gov.uk/picnics for more information.

Urgent plea to get more black donors

HEALTH officials have launched an urgent plea for more black people to volunteer to give blood. NHS Blood and Transplant (NHSBT) said 40,000 more black donors are needed to meet growing demand for a subtype of blood more common in black people.

Between 2014 and 2016 there was a 75 per cent increase in the amount of Ro blood issued to hospitals in England. A high proportion of this blood is used to treat sickle cell disease. The online campaign is called #ImThere.

Pub holds festival

A FOUR-DAY cider and cheese festival is being held in a Wolverhampton city centre pub.

The event at the Lych Gate Tavern in Queen Square is running from July 6 to 9. The Black Country Ales pub has added sausages and classic wines as well this year.

Homes on ambulance service blacklist

DOZENS of homes in the Black Country and Staffordshire are blacklisted by West Midlands Ambulance Service over fears of paramedics' safety.

Police escorts are required for ambulance staff visiting 52 addresses in the West Midlands which have been flagged up as 'dangerous places'.

They include properties in Wolverhampton, Walsall, Sandwell, Dudley, Wyre Forest and Staffordshire.

The addresses become blacklisted on the back of reports by paramedics from previous visits.

Reasons range from dangerous dogs, attacks on staff and verbal abuse.

Letters are written to the addresses where possible, and they are reviewed regularly by ambulance bosses.

The number of addresses in each postcode came from a Freedom of Information Act request sent in to the service.

Spokesman Murray McGregor said: "If a crew go to a place where they have been assaulted, they will report it in their paperwork – it is then it will get flagged up.

"We go through a number of step from that stage. We can write to the address, tell them the situation, but in some cases we have to take action.

"It is about ensuring the safety of our staff while they go about their work."

Mr McGregor added: "There can be a delay in getting to that address."

The number of blacklisted addresses has fallen from 2015 when there were 79. But in 2011 there were just 11.

The figures come as attacks on ambulance staff continue to rise.

New school on way as 1,500 new places sought

By Richard Guttridge

MORE than 1,500 secondary school places are to be created across Sandwell as education bosses attempt to ease extreme pressure on the borough's school system.

A new school is planned for West Bromwich, with three others due to be expanded.

A rapidly rising population, accelerated over recent years by increased migration and a baby boom, means an extra 3,500 places are needed by 2025.

The £39 million project would see a brand new school, expected to be an academy or free school, built at Kelvin Way, West Bromwich, creating 750 places.

An extra 275 places will be created at Shireland Academy in Smethwick, another 250 at George Salter Academy in West Bromwich and 220 at Wood Green Academy in Wednesbury.

Shortfall

That comes on top of existing proposals to expand the Q3 Academy in Langley, Oldbury, the Ormiston Academy in Tividale and the RSA Academy in Tipton, expected to free up another 1,500 places.

Education chiefs say new places are urgently needed and the expansions necessary to avoid a shortfall for the 2019/20 school year.

They have now turned their attention to secondary schools following an expansion drive at primary schools.

A Sandwell Council report said the borough had seen 'unprecedented' population growth over recent years, particularly in Smethwick, where school places are most in need. Schools are also struggling for places in West Bromwich and Oldbury, the report said, adding: "To ensure a sufficient supply of places there is a need to continue to fund expansion of secondary schools to match projected demand."

Sandwell Council's children's services boss Councillor Simon Hackett said: "The priority is now on providing much needed places for our secondary schools. I would like to congratulate my team for working so hard to get the Government to approve the funding needed."

Tipton couple mark 72 years together

Charles and Ellen Harris from Elizabeth Walk, Tipton, celebrate 72nd wedding anniversary

THEY met aged just 10 and 12 years old, as youngsters on the country's waterways. Today, more than 80 years on, Charles and Ellen Harris are happily in love, and marking their 72nd wedding anniversary.

The pair met on the canals in Gloucester when Mrs Harris' mother moved in with her step-father in the city – next door to Mr Harris.

And after serving in the Second World War, they tied the knot on the month of VE Day in June 1945. The pair remain independent and in good health.

The past two years has seen a flurry of celebrations for the couple. Two years ago they marked their platinum anniversary. Then last year, Mr Harris was awarded France's highest military honour, the Legion D'Honneur, for his part in the D-Day landings. Mr Harris, now aged 94, landed on Juno Beach in June in 1944 before fighting his way to Le Havre with the Royal Engineers.

After being hit by shrapnel from a grenade, he was treated back in England and discharged in February 1945. Two months later he reunited with Mrs Harris, who is now 92, after Mr Harris visited her step father.

They moved to Tipton in the 1960s, and today live in Elizabeth Walk, close to their daughter Ann Davies, who is aged 57. They also have two sons, Robert, aged 71, and Charles, aged 70. They also have five grandchildren and nine great grandchildren.

The couple first met on the waterways in the 1920s, when Mr Harris, who was from Coventry, moved to Gloucester with her mother, where Mr Harris was living.

Both worked on the canals before the war, with Mr Harris taking oil up the canal from Bristol to Gloucester. Mrs Harris helped her mother on the Grand Union Canal Company.

Mr Harris said: "I wouldn't change my marriage for the world. We're both still very happy."

'Pride' in students following lockdown

A HEADTEACHER has spoken of his 'pride' in pupils and staff after a police incident put a Smethwick school on lockdown.

Police trawled the town last Wednesday morning, as a manhunt was launched for a domestic violence suspect. A high number of officers were visible in the area around Uplands Manor Primary School as police searched for the man.

Children at the Addenbrooke Road school were kept inside, where the gates were locked by staff as a precaution. However the search for the domestic violence suspect was not linked to the school, police said.

Paul Moore, headteacher at the school, said: "We were alerted by the police that there was a potential threat that someone may have come to the school on the morning.

"Therefore we instantly put our emergency action plan into place which was to put the school into lockdown. I was incredibly proud of how everyone acted. Staff also gave up their lunchtime to stay with the children at all times.

"We did have a few concerned parents who wished to collect their children, which they had the right to do so...We made sure that the children were kept calm and police left the site just after 2pm."

Police issued a statement following the events in the area. They said: "There is no cause for the public to be concerned and we want to reassure you that the police activity is an attempt to locate the suspect."

More needs to be done for returners

RETURNSHIPS are on the rise for professionals across the UK, according to jobs website CV-Library.

A study for the company found that 83.3 per cent of Birmingham employees said they would be more inclined to join a company that offered such a programme, which help people get back into work after an extended period away from employment.

The survey of 1,200 professionals also found 68.6 per cent say that it is difficult to get back into the corporate world after taking a career break.

Almost two-thirds (65.3 per cent) said that not enough was being done to help people return to work.

The top reason for a break was looking after children (40 per cent), followed by caring for a family member (23.3 per cent).

Road closures during work in city centre

MOTORISTS in Wolverhampton city centre face disruption as a series of road closures are being brought in during Mander Centre building works, which could run for up to 18 months, in operation from 6am to 6pm. Part of Bell Street will be closed.

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Concerns on the levels of policing due to incidents

LOCAL policing is 'pretty much non-existent' when officers are deployed to react to terror incidents, the West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner has warned.

David Jamieson said the force was 'buckling under the strain' of cuts that have seen its budget slashed by £140 million over the last seven years.

It comes after Metropolitan Police Commissioner Cressida Dick said British counter-terror agencies had been 'stretched' by the recent spate of atrocities, potentially compromising efforts to quash future threats.

Mr Jamieson said that the fact that the service has lost 1,746 officers since 2010 meant that 'when there is a major public order deployment, or in this case a reaction to an act or terror, local policing is pretty much non-existent'.

With another budget cut of £6m due this year, he added: "We simply do not have enough people policing our streets. The police will always rise to challenge, but we need a government that will give them the resources they need to do so."

Meanwhile Ms Dick told a meeting of the Police and Crime Committee that other criminal investigations had been paused or delayed out of 'necessity' in the wake of four terror attacks in the UK this year.

The country's most senior officer said: "The counter-terrorism network is certainly stretched. Before 12 weeks ago, they had a set of people and they still have a set of people across the country in essence."

New treatment for boy after op

A SCHOOLBOY who was given a fresh bone marrow transplant to aid treatment for leukaemia remains in hospital.

Khaleel Khan, aged 12, was given cells from his father Majid in what is termed as a 'rescue' procedure.

The youngster has been struggling to recover since receiving the treatment at Birmingham Children's Hospital last month.

The family, of Woodhouse Crescent, in Trench, Telford, were told there was a less than 20 per cent chance of finding a suitable match because he is mixed race, and after a global search a donor was found in Germany. Details about fundraising to assist their efforts are available on www.gofundme.com/khaleels-leukaemia-battle.

Temporary cricket stand is in for test

HIGH demand for tickets for England's first day/night test match at Edgbaston has led to extra seating being found. There are 850 more seats for the Investec Test match with the West Indies, on August 17 to 21.

Patient's wait due to lack of interpreter

A HOSPITAL boss has apologised after a vulnerable patient was kept waiting 20 hours because there was no access to an interpreter.

The patient, who spoke Portuguese, had to wait almost a full day at City Hospital in Birmingham, as the normal interpreter service couldn't be provided.

Toby Lewis, chief executive of the Sandwell and West Birmingham NHS Trust, which runs the hospital, has vowed to never let a similar incident happen again.

The patient went into A&E at the weekend. Mr Lewis said interpreters would normally contacted over the phone but that wasn't possible in this case as the patient required a mental health assessment.

But the top boss made it clear the length of time the patient was made to wait was unacceptable.

Unharmed

He said on Twitter: "I apologise to our ED staff. A patient spent 20 hours in our care awaiting an interpreter. The patient is unharmed. Will NEVER happen again.

Mr Lewis added in a statement: "We are very sorry that one of our patients waited 20 hours for a Portuguese interpreter over the weekend.

"Our patient was unharmed and was kept in a place of safety until we were able to provide a translator.

"The delay was caused because neither ourselves nor the mental health team could provide our normal telephone interpreter service, as the patient needed a mental health assessment and this demands a face-to-face interpreter to safeguard the patient's interest.

"We are urgently looking into this matter to agree measures to ensure it doesn't happen again."

The trust has failed to meet the national target for having A&E patients seen within four hours at its two hospitals, Sandwell General and City Hospital, over the last 18 months.

Bosses are targeting reaching the required 95 per cent by the end of 2017/18.

Thousands have been kept waiting in A&E, with the average number of patients seen within the NHS target time languishing at 87 per cent.

School told 'improve' in its first inspection

AN independent school has been told to improve by Ofsted after its first inspection.

Pupils at Impact Independent School, Friar Park Road, Wednesbury, 'do not make consistently strong progress in all subjects', according to inspectors.

Ofsted also said management at the school for secondary level students 'are not thinking strategically about the improvements they have identified'.

The school, which says its aim is to 'transform the lives of disadvantaged and vulnerable young people through the fundamental building block that is education' and accepts pupils at risk of exclusion from other schools, was rated as 'requires improvement' in three out of four key areas.

These were effectiveness of leadership and management, quality of teaching, learning and assessment and outcomes for pupils.

It did, however, get a 'good' rating in terms of personal development, behaviour and welfare, with bosses claiming they are happy with the outcome and will strive to improve.

Strategically

A report written by inspectors following an inspection between May 3 and 5 this year reads: "Leaders are not thinking strategically about the improvements they have identified. As a result, improvement planning and monitoring is not leading to quick improvements to teaching and to outcomes. The quality of teaching, learning and assessment is variable across subjects and across year groups. Consequently, pupils do not make consistently strong progress in all subjects.

"Leaders' monitoring of teaching and learning does not focus sufficiently on the progress made by pupils in the short-term and over time."

But bosses were praised for having 'a clear vision' for the school in what was its first inspection since being registered with the Department for Education in 2014.

The report added: "Leaders are ambitious and have a clear vision for the school. They have ensured that the school meets all the independent school standards."

Headteacher Jo Blackhouse said: "As a school we are pleased that we have received a good rating for personal development, behaviour and welfare. We have excellent staff here who I am very proud of."

Station mural celebrates diversity

College students with the colourful mural they have created at Smethwick Rolfe Street railway station

A COLOURFUL mural and exhibition space created by a group of college students has been unveiled at a Black Country railway station.

Smethwick Rolfe Street welcomed locals and transport industry workers to view the completed project, carried out by 50 Sandwell College students.

They were tasked with bringing new life to the station, whilst celebrating the town's diverse community. Angela Tombs, head of the creative industries and performing arts department at Sandwell College, said: "The students should feel incredibly proud of their hard work in creating a lasting testament to the exciting, varied culture of Smethwick."

The mural forms part of the BTEC Art community art module at Sandwell College.

Thee brief for the design is 'Smethwick Going Forward', aiming to reflect the area's many cultures, with a key feature being the words 'Love Thy Neighbour' written in various languages.

Students from the college studying construction were also responsible for transforming the former Station Master's office into a history exhibition space, which will be open to the public daily, and meeting room. This allowed them to develop their plastering, carpentry and painting skills.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Fun day at canal to mark 125 years

A FAMILY fun day will be held next month to mark the 125th anniversary of a famous pumping station.

Staff and volunteers at Galton Valley Pumping Station will be putting on the wildlife-themed event on July 8.

The day will run between 10am and 3pm at the station itself and further down the canal.

Some of the smallest animals from Dudley Zoo will be making an appearance along with representatives from the RSPB and Birmingham and Black Country wildlife trust.

NHS staff awarded at grand ceremony

A HEALTH commissioning group has celebrated the achievements and dedication of staff in delivering patient care in general practice.

NHS Sandwell and West Birmingham Clinical Commissioning Group held its awards ceremony at the home of West Bromwich Albion, The Hawthorns.

It was attended by 150 GPs, practice staff and staff from other local NHS organisations. The GP of the Year award was presented to Dr James Gwilt, of Carters Green Medical Centre in West Bromwich.

Trader has shot at national title

A TRADER is in the running for the regional finals of Britain's Top Tradesperson. Aman Bains, aged 32, from West Bromwich, is up for the award, run by Screwfix.

Eight regional finalists from across the nation will be selected to attend the national final to be in with a chance of winning the coveted national title and recognition that would boost their work prospects moving forward when people are seeking tradespeople to carry out jobs.

Bars and Melody to play Birmingham

POP duo Bars and Melody will play a show in Birmingham later this year.

The former Britain's Got Talent contestants are known for songs such as Hopeful, Shape Of You and Keep Smiling.

The pair is made up of rapper Leondre 'Bars' Dervries and singer Charlie 'Melody' Lenehan.

They will play the O2 Academy 2 on Sunday, October 22. Doors to the show open at 7pm. Tickets are on sale now, for more information click here.

One night of Elvis

A BLACK Country music club is marking the 40th anniversary of Elvis Presley's death with a tribute concert.

Suspiciously Elvis is performing at the Robin 2 in Bilston on August 19. Tickets are £18.50 in advance or £20 on the night. Elvis died aged 42 at his Graceland home on August 16, 1977.

IN MY VIEW
with Mark Andrews

Bangin' as grime now leading the way

WITH all the talk about austerity and economic gloom, you might be interested to hear that there is one sector of the UK economy which appears to be doing very nicely, thank you very much. A nice little earner, with the potential to crack export markets right around the world.

According to the Official Charts Company, grime artists have seen their sales double over the past year, with the likes of Stormzy and Skepta leading the way. So it wasn't just me who was buying this stuff, then?

NOW you might think that that grime artists are painters with poor personal hygiene, but apparently not. According to worldwide web, grime is a type of music typified by rapid, syncopated breakbeats, generally 130 or 140 beats per minute, and which originated in East London. Which sounds a bit like Chas and Dave with drums. Bangin' man.

❒ ❒ ❒

A MOTORIST claims to have had a chat with some aliens after their spaceship tailed her car in a remote, rural part of the United States.

She says the flaming spacecraft followed her car before stopping in front of her and asked her for directions to the e-cigarette stall on Willenhall Market. Actually I might have embellished the last bit, but you get the general drift. The lady claims to have told them: "I know that you can hear me because you all are a lot more intelligent and advanced than we are."

Which is probably true. But then again, the same could be said of people from the Black Country. But anyway, all this happened 40 years ago, and for some reason she has only just got round to telling the authorities.

Maybe it is because attitudes have changed, and she wasn't sure what kind of response she would have got had she gone to the police at the time. Although the words: "Would you mind blowing into this bag, madam", springs to mind.

❒ ❒ ❒

MAYBE in the scheme of things, Tim Farron quitting as leader of the Liberal Democrats will probably not be causing you too many sleepless nights. No doubt, there are many people around who never knew who he was in the first place.

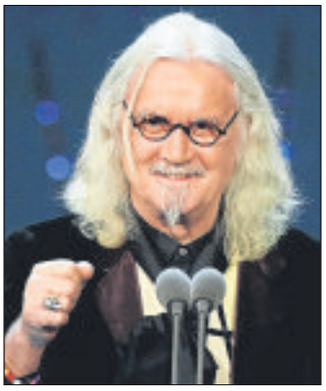
Nevertheless, we should all be very concerned when a party leader feels obliged to quit his post because his Christian faith is considered out of step with today's climate of political correctness.

It's the same with some of the comments about Democratic Unionists in Northern Ireland, who have been branded the "Dinosaur Party" because of their adherence to Christian values.

Isn't it incredible how the people who make the most noise about tolerance and diversity can never extend their liberal credentials towards Christianity?

As Sir Billy celebrates, Davis waits and Tim goes

Does David Davis measure up? Well, there are striking similarities to a particular columnist...



Arise Sir Billy – knighthood for the ex-pat comic, while the last surviving Dambuster gets an MBE

Farewell Farron – the unjust victim of bigots who claim to cherish diversity?

Big Yin's win puts a smile on some faces

THE BEST OF PETER RHODES

REMEMBER that nice young man who sold you the double glazing and told you the super-efficient door would keep the coldest weather at bay? Do you recall him mentioning that in a heatwave the same door would warp, buckle and jam? No, me neither.

AFTER Michael Mosley's healthy-eating programme Trust Me – I'm a Doctor (BBC2) and a flurry of follow-up features in the glossy mags, a reader complains: "You can't get a white cabbage for love nor money." In all my years in journalism this is the first time I've witnessed a sauerkraut frenzy.

RESPECT to the Muslim men who fought back when a van crashed into a crowd near Finsbury Park Mosque. They had no idea whether their attacker was armed or whether the vehicle was a bomb. They just grabbed him, thumped him, detained him until the cops arrived and heeded their imam's pleas not to injure him. As I pointed out some days ago, terrorists are not superhuman. Facing a cohesive and determined group, they can be defeated. The official police advice to run, hide and report is sometimes no substitute for grab, wallop and pin down. Well done, all.

DAVID Davis, widely tipped this week as a possible successor to Theresa May, appears to have stolen my CV. Davis is a slightly overweight, sixtysomething, Yorkshire-born, grammar-school educated husband, Eurosceptic and former Territorial Army officer. What's not to like?

SOME voices stay with you all your life. My generation will never forget Oliver Postgate narrating the saga of Noggin the Nog, or Shirley Abicair singing about the Little Boy Fishing. For a later generation, the voice of the Play School and Play Away presenter Brian Cant will endure. Cant's death was announced this week. He was 83 and I bet, even now, you can hear his soft, beautifully modulated voice as he introduced Trumpton's firemen: "Pugh, Pugh, Barney McGrew, Cuthbert, Dibble, Grub."

SHIRLEY Abicair? Still alive and well and living in Melbourne, aged 86.

WHEN he urged the homeless of Grenfell Tower to occupy empty properties in Kensington, Jeremy Corbyn must have known he was encouraging them to break the law. If the bewildered, shellshocked survivors of the inferno actually followed his advice they could end up in the sort of accommodation that has bars on the windows.

AS the first proper survey reveals the impact of the youth vote on the General Election, the message for any future Conservative government is plain: 1) Under no circumstances hold an election during university term time. 2) If 1) is impossible then immediately raise the voting age to 60.

AND off to the dentist to re-arrange an appointment. In Reception, a huge muscular bloke with a big beard was being quietly assured by the receptionist that all their dentists are very understanding about nervous patients. "They don't come any more nervous than me," I offered cheerfully, hoping to reassure him. But he would not even make eye-contact. It is a reminder that for some people, dread of the dentist is not merely a fear but a full-blown phobia. Given the link between tooth decay and heart disease, it can be a lethal phobia. I cannot remember a time when painless dentistry and drill-free fillings were not promised to be just around the corner. Still waiting. . . .

SO 95-year old George "Johnny" Johnson, the last surviving Dambuster, gets a measly MBE in the Honours list while 'Big Yin' Billy Connolly, a comedian who doesn't even live in this country, gets a knighthood. Makes you proud to be British, doesn't it?

AND why did poor old Olivia de Havilland have to wait until she was 100 – seven decades after her greatest films - to become a dame? The only people who should be forced to wait that long for honours are sporting "heroes" with dodgy urine samples.

TIM Farron stands down as Lib-Dem leader because his Christian views have become easy meat for his political enemies. The people I despise most in politics are those who claim to cherish diversity in all things when the truth is that they cannot tolerate diversity of opinion. If you don't share their mind-set you're worthless. They are the worst sort of bigots.

GOT home to find my chronically unreliable BT broadband not working. The bloke on the BT helpline wanted to know which malfunction lights were flashing. Tricky. Like millions of males, I am colour-blind. The lights on a BT hub are red, green and orange. But the red is a sort of orangey red, the orange is reddishly orange and the green is somewhere between red and orange and strikes me as a bit yellowish. The lad at BT gave me the usual guff about putting the customer first but rather spoiled it by adding that if the fault's on my side of the hub it'll cost me £100.

TALKING POINT

Seeing red as gingers join range of emojis

ONCE upon a time there was just Rita Fairclough. Jenny Matthews came, went and returned, while Les Battersby also rocked up on the cobbles.

He brought with him Cilla Brown and soon followed Chesney and Fizz.

Now we have Gary Windass and Craig Tinker, which does seem a high concentration in a street with around 13 houses.

Maybe should rename the soap opera Gingernation Street in tribute to the number of redheads currently residing in Weatherfield.

But, don't think this is a dig at the carrot-topped population. Far from it. It's actually a celebration of them, particularly as smart phone makers have finally come into the 21st century and recognised their existence.

Some of the biggest names in music over the decades are a certain shade of red, Cilla Black, Geri Halliwell, Ed Sheeran. Sporting superstar Steve Davis and even the fifth in line to the throne join them in a list of ginger greats. And let's not forget Emma Stone is an Oscar-winning actress.

They may make up less than two per cent of the world's population, but, like all minorities, it's still important they are represented in society. To that end, smart phone makers have finally decided to introduce ginger emojis.

Actually in Wales, Ireland and Scotland, a tenth of people sport red hair, and it was in the latter where an online petition was spearheaded, gathering 20,000 signatures.

The campaign document read: "Redheads. In all their glorious gingerness, they've been missed out. Again. If you say you're going to diversify why not add a few red-haired emoji in the mix."

It acknowledged that while natural redheads may be rare, with such a small percentage of the word's inhabitants, that was still 138 million iphones waiting to happen. The persistent campaigning on social media has now reaped its rewards. For, while emojis have evolved in recent years, there was still no redhead option, until now. Jeremy Burge, founder of emoji website Emojipedia – yes there is such a thing – has come to realise there is a gap in the market. He said: "The lack of a redhead emoji has been the most frequent complaint from users."

And, while they may be out painting the town red at the news, the bald truth is just as good for the follically-challenged too.

Mr Burge admitted that bald, curly and the white-haired could join them, too and these could all be rolled out by 2018.

In a day and age of multi-culturalism and diversity, I think it's a great idea that technology should be embraced and that minorities are being considered – not just as an afterthought. A grandmother from Coventry has even designed emojis that reflect old age, with false teeth and bad backs. Gets a thumbs up smiley from me!

MARK SHIPP

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How did we end up with this coalition?

HAVE us voters been DUPed? On Thursday June 8 the good people of Great Britain went out to vote, but were any of us expecting another coalition Tory based Government?

There are only six mainstream political parties in Great Britain, Labour, Tory, UKIP, Lib/Dems, Greens and SNP, all the independent candidates and smaller parties are generally classed as 'others' why are we seeing the Tories trying to form a Government from one of the lesser 'others' groups?

In all three Wolves seats Labour won, Tories second and UKIP third, same in Walsall South and West Bromwich West, in Dudley south & Cannock Chase Tories won Labour second and UKIP third, point being with three strong mainstream parties how come we ended up with a Tory DUP coalition government prospect?

So many people working hard pounding our streets, so much media coverage, so many leaflets all for only 650 seats in Government, maybe it's time to replace the unelected House of Lords with a second chamber made from all the candidates that came in second in General Elections? As Theresa May-hem has led us into the very coalition of chaos, she warned us of before the election, and Nick Clegg and the last die hard remainers' hopes of a second referendum died when Nick lost his Sheffield seat, maybe, it's time to hand over the Britain's independence negotiations to UKIP as Nigel Farage is the world expert on all things EU and UKIP still has the most number of elected MEP's in the European Union we are waving adios amigos to.

MR G E FANTHOM
Swindon

Driven to making a comparison

TEN years ago I watched the film 'Cars' in USA. It told of Radiator Springs, which died the death thanks to the new Interstate 40.

The quote was: 'All that view lost, a town dies, for the sake of ten minutes'

Thankfully it could not happen here: Enter the dragon, HS2. In this day of video conferencing, £73bn is proposed to shave a few minutes of Birmingham to London.

Still, our politicians seem to have achieved equality. Not even the late lamented President Nixon, could do that. He could fool all the people some of the time, and some of the people all of the time. He could not fool all of the people all of the time.

Now, with one shenanigan and another, our present crop of politicians have achieved the impossible, they seem to have rubbed up all of the people, all of the time.

Well done, sirs!

ROBERT WHITE
Wigmore

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

POST
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Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES

EMAIL
sandwell.chronicle@expressandstar.co.uk

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Ariana's return was best way to move on

THE recent charity concert in Manchester for the victims and family of the bombing atrocity at the original Ariana Grande concert was the best possible answer to the terrorist who caused the mayhem.

Ariana Grande and her management team should be applauded for organising the concert with such speed. It would have been easy for Ariana to stay in the US and simply send a few condolence wishes and gifts through a third party to the fans injured in the hospital.

To visit these children and their families in person the day before the second concert was something that would have improved their mental state immeasurably.

This empathy is sadly lacking in many areas of life today, particularly in the political arena.

ALAN SMITH
Bilston

Labour's long list of promises

WE now know that the youth of Great Britain felt they had to come out and cast their vote, mostly for Labour because they cared about things like the NHS, austerity, the homeless, and European citizens' rights.

I remember when, as a young man myself, being told if you don't vote Labour when you're young you have no heart.

It seems it had nothing to do with Mr Corbyn's promise to scrap university fees and write off debt, after all this is a caring generation, and they would never vote for such a selfish reason, like the older generation, would they?

To aid their education let me explain the word free in political terms means someone else has to pay for it.

The election has left him looking like Father Christmas, giving out sweeties. Were the much-loved Jeremy and his party the real winner of this election?

ALAN J HUNT
West Bromwich

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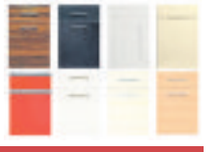

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Man's assault claim in police lawsuit move

A MAN is suing West Midlands Police after claiming officers punched and kicked him.

Michael Blackwood, aged 55, is suing the force for assault, wrongful arrest, unlawful detention and malicious prosecution following the incident in October.

He claims he answered his front door in Gower Street early on Sunday, October 9, to find an officer, who was investigating a relative of Mr Blackwood's, insisting on searching his home despite not having a search warrant.

Mr Blackwood claims he was attacked by some of the officers, adding: "I am very angry at being assaulted and at the injuries I sustained. However, I am also upset that all this unprovoked attack happened in my home in front of my family."

Mr Blackwood was charged with assaulting five police officers but, according to national law firm Scott-Moncrieff which is handling his lawsuit, was acquitted of all charges on January 9.

A spokesman for West Midlands Police confirmed it had 'received notice' of Mr Blackwood's claim but the force was 'unable to comment further'.

Dreams extension to create 60 jobs

A BED specialist has opened an extension to its Black Country factory, increasing production capacity by nearly a third, and creating 60 new jobs.

The Dreams Bed Factory, located on the Granada Trading Estate in Oldbury, is opening its extension on Friday.

Chief executive Mike Logue, said: "It demonstrates the passion for and commitment to both manufacturing and job creation in the UK. Our team at the Dreams Bed Factory are incredible and they are paramount to the success we have had as a business so far. I am therefore very proud that Dreams is not only able to invest in them, but also to employ more people from the Oldbury area."

St Margaret's Primary youngsters are on the road with their message

Riya Billing, Callum Patrick, Isla Murphy, Cheyanne Plummer-Haaijer, Jasmine Thind and Raveen Garewal with town lead Councillor Steve Melia and Mayor of Sandwell Council Ahmadul Haque

The children with one of their messages on School Zone warning sign alongside the dignitaries

Isla Murphy, Raveen Garewal, Cheyanne Plummer-Haaijer, Callum Patrick, Jasmine Thind and Riya Billing with town lead Councillor Steve Melia and Mayor of Sandwell Council Ahmadul Haque

Pupil posters to tackle speeding

CHILDREN have picked up their pens and pencils in a bid to improve road safety outside their school.

Pupils at St Margaret's CE Primary School in Great Barr have designed posters and banners encouraging drivers to slow down and urging pedestrians to use the subway and crossings safely.

Sandwell Council's highways team has been running a community road safety campaign with the school since January.

Worried teachers and council highways staff launched the campaign due to the number of people crossing over the A34 without using the pedestrian crossing and the subway – despite fencing on the central reservation to deter them.

Pupils have conducted a speed check outside their A34 Birmingham Road school with officers from West Midlands Police and students from Q3 Academy.

When the campaign was launched in January, there had been three road accident fatalities close to the school in the previous 12 months. There have been no further recorded injury collisions in the area since the launch of the campaign.

Mary Humpherson, aged 88, was killed in a hit-and-run crash after being struck by a silver Ford Mondeo on the road on October 21 last year.

Sandwell Council's cabinet member for highways Councillor David Hosell said: "I'd like to congratulate all of the pupils who created the winning designs – they are really colourful and eye-catching.

"This campaign is aimed at getting drivers to stick to the 30mph speed limit outside the school and encouraging people to cross the busy dual carriageway safely." The winning banner and sign designs were unveiled last Thursday outside the school.

Pupils and staff celebrated the new signs and banners with an assembly attended by the Mayor of Sandwell Councillor Ahmadul Haque and town lead Councillor Steve Melia.

Another of the banners which is placed on an area of fencing near to the school

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Disneyland surprise for star of new show Paul

A COMMUNITY hero who saved a man's life has been given more than £1,300 and a trip to Disneyland thanks to a television show.

Paul Glover, The West Bromwich Albion Foundation's disability development manager, held back the tears as Paul Martin, the presenter of BBC's Street Auction which was filming in Mr Glover's home of Brownhills, informed him of his prize.

The Street Auction team raised £1,348 by selling and auctioning off old and unwanted items given to them by people in Brownhills.

All the money raised, along with the trip to Disneyland, went to Mr Glover for his life-saving heroics and for 'working tirelessly for people less fortunate'. He was joined on the day by his wife, Lisa, and their two daughters, Ashlee and Isabel, both aged 14.

Street auction presenter, Paul Martin with Paul Glover, right, and wife Lisa

Doorstep

An emotional Mr Glover, who was born in Streetly and has previously lived in Aldridge, said: "It was a massive shock. I sort of get used to bits at work with what we do but not on my own doorstep.

"It will make such a difference to us because saving for Disney is not easy. It is incredible. What the show does is incredible and to see people pulling together is fantastic, we do not do enough of it really.

"It will make a big difference to us and I cannot thank everybody enough."

Asked about saving a man's life, Mr Glover added: "I was doing a session at Portway Lifestyle Centre in Oldbury when a chap collapsed. Myself and some staff from the centre performed cpr and got the defibrillator on him, which made the difference, and kept him going until the ambulance came. He just collapsed but he made it through.

An emotional Paul with his wife and two daughters during filming

Presenter Mr Martin, who also presents the popular antiques show Flog It, said: "It is a great show. What we are doing is bringing the community together to say a big thank you to someone who has dedicated all their time and energy to others in the community. An unsung hero, someone who works tirelessly for people less fortunate than themselves.

Paul is a great father, a great husband but also he loves what he does for the foundation. For all the disabled people he gets them motivated and gets them going again, gives them hope.

Items auctioned off on the day, which was based at Saint James Church on Church Road, included a signed Jake Livermore West Bromwich Albion shirt going for £50 and an old set of golf clubs for £20.

The show is due to air in September on BBC One.

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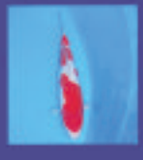

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Midland stars and international players to perform across the region

What's on... and where

Events in Sandwell are as follows (free entry unless stated)

FRIDAY 14 JULY:
Sandwell Arts Café, West Bromwich, 12 noon – Julian Stringle Quartet
Wednesbury Library, 7pm – The Cigar Box Guitar Show with Chickenbone John
Windsor Theatre Bar, Bearwood, 8pm – The Whiskey Brothers (£5)
SATURDAY 15 JULY:
Blackheath Library, 11.30am – Ukulele Taster Session with Pete Williams
Wednesbury Museum & Art Gallery, 12noon – Djangos Castle (Spain)
Sandwell Park Farm, West Bromwich, 2pm – Cyril et Leila Duclos (France)
Bleakhouse Library, Oldbury, 7pm – Cyril et Leila Duclos (France)
Windsor Theatre Bar, Bearwood, 8pm – Mike David Band (£5)
SUNDAY 16 JULY:
Dartmouth Park, West Bromwich, 1pm – Chase Jazzmen
Windsor Theatre Bar, Bearwood, 2pm – The Windsor Boys (£5)
Haden Hill Park, Cradley Heath, 2pm – Sauce City Jazz Band
MONDAY 17 JULY:
Great Bridge Library, 7pm – Richard Heath and Buzby Bywater
Tuesday 18 July
Cradley Heath Library, 7pm – Roy Forbes
Perry Hill Tavern, Oldbury, 8.45pm – Old Comrades Jazz Band
WEDNESBURY 19 JULY:
Thimblemill Library, Smethwick, 7pm – Sauce City Jazz Band
West Bromwich Central Library, 7pm – Sandwell Youth Jazz Orchestra with The TCS Blues Band
Thursday 20 July
Great Barr Library, 7pm – Blue Silk
Thimblemill Library, Smethwick, 7pm – All That Jazz Dance Workshop
Windsor Theatre Bar, Bearwood, 8pm – Ricky Cool and The In Crowd (£5)
FRIDAY 21 JULY:
Sandwell Arts Café, West Bromwich, 12noon – Sarah Barnwell Quartet
Lightwoods Park, Bearwood, 7pm – Great Birmingham Trombone Company
West Bromwich Central Library, 7pm – Digby Fairweather Quartet
Windsor Theatre Bar, Bearwood, 8pm – Emma Jonson (£5)
SATURDAY 22 JULY:
Blackheath Library, 11.30am – Pete Williams: Meet The Uke
Manor House, West Bromwich, 2.30pm – Les Zauto Stompers de Paris (France)
Blackheath Library, 7pm – Sheila Waterfield
Windsor Theatre Bar, Bearwood, 8pm – Les Zauto Stompers de Paris (France) (£5)
SUNDAY 23 JULY:
Oak House, West Bromwich, 1pm – Simon Spillett Quartet
Windsor Theatre Bar, Bearwood, 2pm – The Small Changes (£5)
Keep up to date on events in Sandwell at www.discoversandwell.co.uk

The Birmingham Trombone Company will be performing

Top trumpeter Digby Fairweather

Midland-based jazz stalwarts Ricky Cool and the In Crowd

One of the stars, boogie-woogie specialist Emma Jonson

Guitarist Pere Soto, of Django's Castle

Councillors Steve Eling and Richard Marshall with musicians and organisers

Swinging in with great jazz

TOP musicians will be sharing the joy of jazz in Sandwell as the borough teams up with a major international festival.

The newly-renamed Birmingham, Solihull & Sandwell Jazz Festival 2017 will see around 30 performances across Sandwell's six towns.

Libraries, museums, parks, Sandwell Arts Café, Windsor Theatre Bar and other venues hosting events from July 14 to 23. From homegrown UK talent including the legendary Digby Fairweather Quartet and boogie woogie pianist Emma Jonson to stars from France and Spain, there's a real mix of music.

Dymanic singer Roy Forbes, singer-songwriter Judy Blu and blues two-piece The Whiskey Brothers are among the many highlights.

Sandwell Youth Jazz Orchestra perform with The TCS Blues Band at West Bromwich Central Library; the Great Birmingham Trombone Company play at newly-restored Lightwoods Park; and Les Zauto Stompers de Paris promise to set the bar high (and loud) with shows at the Manor House, West Bromwich, and Windsor Theatre Bar, Bearwood.

Sandwell Council leader Councillor Steve Eling said: "We're very excited to be teaming up with Birmingham and Solihull in this popular and well-established festival, now in its 33rd year."

Councillor Richard Marshall, the council's cabinet member for leisure, added: "Our libraries and museums staff have built up a great relationship with the festival over the years, hosting a number of events.

"We're thrilled to be making it official this year by getting even more involved, putting Sandwell firmly on the music map.

"Joining with Birmingham and Solihull, we're making up a trio to entertain the whole region this summer, as well as visitors from around the world. There's a wide range of high quality acts performing in Sandwell and the vast majority of events are free entry."

Festival director Jim Simpson said: " Libraries, museums and parks across the borough have played an increasingly significant part in staging performances that have entertained residents and visitors alike. It was a logical next step for Sandwell to become fully involved."

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Alot meant by Beeb's ident of green-fingered group

A GROUP of allotment holders from the Black Country are the stars of a special 'ident' film, which are being shown across the nation on the BBC.

The green-fingered bunch from Bearwood Road Allotments in Smethwick have had their time on TV, appearing before shows watched by millions such as EastEnders, Doctor Who and Countryfile.

The channel has recently refreshed its idents to give community and sports groups across the UK their 15 minutes of fame.

As well as being shown between programmes, the channel uses the footage to fill a gap on BBC1 HD when Midlands Today is screened. The HD service is currently not able to serve local programmes so extended idents are used.

The group of five adults and four children are shown proudly tending a plot on the Smethwick allotment in a series of clips filmed by a BBC crew and renowned photographer Martin Parr last month.

Chair of the allotments association Mick Brooke said: "It was great that Bearwood Allotments were chosen by the BBC to be part of their 'one-ness' campaign.

"The film crew seemed to genuinely love our green and productive oasis in Smethwick.

Leisure boss Councillor Richard Marshall said: "It's fantastic to see Smethwick on national television."

Bearwood Road allotments has four half plots and five full plots available. Allotment plots are also available at Londonderry and Wood Green allotments. People can enquire about an allotment by emailing amy_robinson@sandwell.gov.uk or call 0121 569 3440.

Part of the film made as part of the Oneness campaign, featuring Bearwood Road Allotments group

Celebrating the Black Country

'CELEBRATE Sandwell' at a fun free event organised by the local community at West Bromwich Town Hall tomorrow, Friday.

Anyone can come along between 10am and 4pm to be entertained and find about the wide range of local organisations and community groups Sandwell has to offer.

From Caribbean steel pans, a wandering troubadour, poet and storyteller to a guided meditation walk and hula hoops, there's a real mix of things to enjoy and explore.

Sandwell's new Mayor Councillor Ahmadul Haque MBE will officially open the event at 12 noon.

Check out the many stands promoting scores of local services and community groups, enjoy free snack food and drinks and enter a raffle to win some great prizes, including a free night out (a Harvester meal for two and two cinema tickets).

Event co-ordinator Richard Flatley said: "By running this event we are bringing people together to honour the kindness and compassion of the people and services of Sandwell." For more information, email celebratesandwell@gmail.com

'Devious' mother in claim for £27k grant

A WOMAN used her disabled son in an attempt to fraudulently claim almost £30,000 for improvements works to her house.

Balwinder Cheema was described as a 'devious and determined liar' by Recorder Rachel Brand QC, who gave her a two year prison sentence, suspended for two years. A jury at Wolverhampton Crown Court found her guilty of three counts of fraud by false representation.

By Alex Ross

It was heard that she had applied for cash under the Disability Facility Grant for work at a house in Great Barr.

She told Sandwell Council the work was needed because her son, who has muscular dystrophy was forced to sleep downstairs and had to go to another property for showers.

But, in fact, Cheema, aged 42, was living in a property in Handsworth, and claiming benefits from Birmingham City Council. When Sandwell Council found out, it refused her application – yet she still appealed. The work, thought to cost £27,000, was for a downstairs bathroom and shower.

Sentencing Cheema, Judge Brand said: "During the trial you revealed yourself to be a devious and detrimental liar. The circumstances of this fraud are bounded with your lies."

Judge Brand said Cheema bought the house in Great Barr in 2014 with another man. She said: "You saw an opportunity to improve the house and make it more marketable, using tax payers money."

She added: "You set to use your son's disability in order to obtain money from the local authority."

Cheema, who has since moved to the property in Walcot Drive in Great Barr, was also ordered to pay £16,282 in court costs within six months.

Mr Mark Jackson, prosecuting, described how Cheema, who works at a supermarket, was paid little for work, but was 'asset rich', owning four houses, three of which she rented out. He said: "This was a case which could have been dealt with much earlier with a guilty plea at the magistrates court."

Mr Henry Spooner, defending, said despite Cheema owning four houses, the mortgages were large and she earned little from the rental incomes.

He said: "The motivation of this was not to acquire wealth for herself, it was to acquire better living conditions for herself and her son." He said Cheema had suffered a difficult life, having been in two relationships which had turned violent.

University pair in radio awards win

A GRADUATE and a member of staff from Birmingham City University have won awards at the New York Festivals International Radio Programme Awards for their documentaries. Naomi McKenzie, who graduated from the university's school of media in 2016, won a silver award in the 'best student documentary' category for her final year student project – 'The Long Road to Recovery'.

Associate professor of radio production Sam Coley picked up a gold award in the 'environment and ecology' category for his 'Dark Coffee' documentary.

In her radio documentary, Naomi investigated the psychological toll caused by the Iraq and Afghan operations on returning British Army personnel.

She spoke to veterans suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and visited a recovery centre run by Help for Heroes that rehabilitates veterans suffering from physical and psychological injuries.

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Sue sets sights to help elderly get the right care

SHE'S one of the senior community nurses who is tasked with reducing elderly admissions at a Black Country hospital trust.

And Sue Wills' hard work has seen a reduction in elderly patient admissions to A&E by 18 per cent and to hospital by 29 per cent – and won her and her colleague Dena Ross two prestigious awards.

Their job is to try and reduce the high usage of emergency ambulances and unplanned hospital admissions by supporting care home staff to manage residents safely in their home.

And the figures and awards show they are doing just that.

The community matron for care homes has been working for Sandwell and West Birmingham Hospitals NHS Trust since 2003.

Training

She returned to the NHS in 2000 after an 18-year break from acute care which saw her working part-time in nursing homes, and looking after her two children.

"I feel proud of what I have achieved in the time I have been back in the NHS," explained Sue, aged 59, who began training as a nurse 40 years ago.

"I had to relearn everything. So to go on and be part of teams that are winning awards from the Nursing Times and Nursing Standard is amazing."

For Sue, it is her colleagues, particularly Dena, who drive her at work. "We bounce off each other and work together really well," added Sue, from Willenhall.

"In fact I'd say that Dena is my hero. The support we receive from the rest of the integrated care team and from the managers here is brilliant."

A typical shift for Sue means working closely with care home staff to provide the best possible care for residents.

She is always looking at ways to improve the service and find smarter ways of working, and that is definitely one of the secrets of her success.

"I work four days a week and it's not particularly 'hands-on' nursing as such," she explained.

"I offer support to the care home staff. I try to give them the confidence to self-manage their residents by taking the advice they are given and implementing it themselves.

"Some days I will go home and really think I have made a difference to the way that care is given."

Sue also liaises closely with families of residents who may be unable to make decisions for themselves.

She added: "A lot of my work is around advanced care planning for residents. This involves discussions with their family members and care home staff about how they will be cared for. Once a plan is in place, that makes you feel proud of the work that you have achieved."

When Sue isn't working she is either looking after her three-year-old granddaughter or relaxing at her caravan in Shropshire, with her husband.

"I love going there as it's where I can 'escape to the country' and relax".

NHS HEROES

ONCE again we focus some of our time on the quiet heroes of the NHS, from a wide variety of backgrounds doing a wide variety of jobs.

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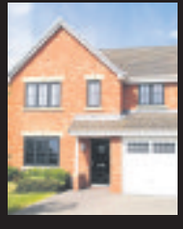

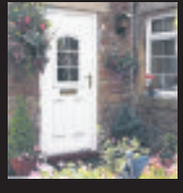

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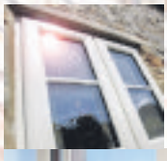

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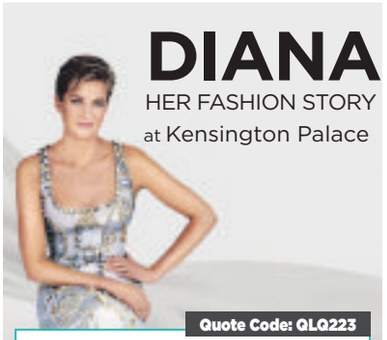

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Man stole van and £8k of tools from employer

A MAN who stole a van and £8,000 worth of tools from his employer over a pay dispute has been ordered to give back the money after appearing in court.

Daniel Brettle, aged 30, from Windmill Hill, Cradley Heath, had been working for PEJ Construction, based in Bilston, for three months, where he was given a white Citroen Despatch van for work purposes, as well as £8,326 worth of tools to carry out jobs on behalf of the company.

During this period, he was repeatedly asked for a copy of his driving licence by the company but failed to provide it, until he started having frequent days off and bosses grew suspicious about his activities.

They then sacked him from his position and asked for their van back, however he did not return it. In the days that passed after that, tools began appearing for sale on the Facebook Marketplace, with the sellers' name matching that of Mr Brettle.

Brettle, who appeared at Walsall Magistrates Court last Tuesday for sentencing after being found guilty after trial, was visited by police on behalf of PEJ Construction and the van was found at his address without the tools.

Prosecuting, Mrs Maggie Meakin, said: "Police found the van at the defendant's address but the tools were gone. His version of events is that he was keeping the van in lieu of money he was owed for work."

The van was eventually returned to the company with no damage to it although the tools had to be replaced. Brettle, who moved to the West Midlands from the North East five years ago, is now working as a supervisor for a construction company and is expecting a child with his partner.

Brettle was ordered to pay back £8,326 in compensation to the company, as well as being given a 20 week prison sentence suspended for 12 months. He was also ordered to carry out 150 hours unpaid work by Deputy District Judge Steven Jonas.

Radio host on canal tour

BBC WM presenter Alex Lester meets skipper Peter Freakley during his trip along the canal from Bonded Warehouse, Stourbridge

A BBC radio presenter held his breakfast show live from a canal boat in the Black Country. BBC WM breakfast presenter Alex Lester, who joined the station in March, broadcast live from Stourbridge last Monday. He travelled on a narrowboat between Bonded Warehouse to Red House Glass Cone during his 6am to 9am show.

Alex lived on a narrow boat for 10 years at Hockley Port in Birmingham and has a real passion for canals. He said: "I'm thrilled to be doing what I love – talking on radio – whilst touring my motherland in the West Midlands on my favourite kind of transport. There's nothing quite as calming as a narrowboat ride. I can't wait to get out there and meet our lovely listeners as we go along."

Alex kicked off a tour being held by BBC WM's favourite presenters, who are travelling around the West Midlands over the next month broadcasting from narrow boats, schools, parks and sports clubs.

They will also be appearing in Wolverhampton, Birmingham and Tamworth. The BBC WM tour will be run until July 14.

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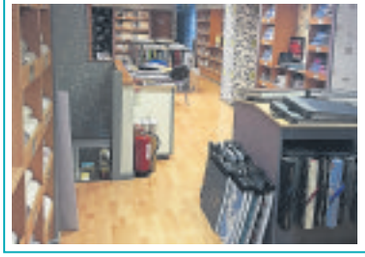

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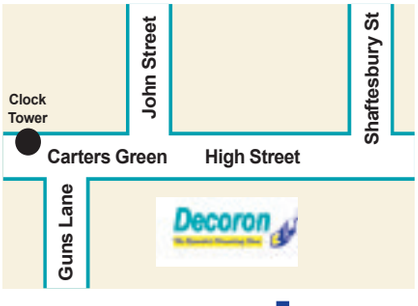

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Black Country impact

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European Union
European Social Fund

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Ofsted Good Provider

This project is receiving up to £34 million of funding made up of £17 million European Social Fund and £17 million Youth Employment Initiative, plus match funding of up to £8m from the Big Lottery Fund and funding from partners

PUBLIC NOTICE

LEVINES

Furniture, Bed, 3 Pc Suite Superstore

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SAVE UP TO 60%

ALL STOCK MUST BE SOLD

UNBEATABLE DEALS • ALL STOCK REDUCED TO SELL

Thurs 29th June	Fri 30th June	Sat 1st July	Sun 2nd July
9am-6pm	9am-6pm	9am-6pm	10am-5pm

TOTAL CLEARANCE PRICE
3 ONLY
The Tetras Full Double Size Bedframe Mattress + 4ft 6in Cardiff Mattress

SAVE 50% Was £289 — NOW ONLY £139 COMPLETE

TOTAL CLEARANCE PRICE
4 SETS ONLY
The Minnesota Luxury Recliner Sofas 3 Seater Recliner + 2 Seater Recliner Black on Brown

SAVE 30% Was £995 — NOW ONLY £689 THE PAIR

TOTAL CLEARANCE PRICE
6 ONLY
The Regent 3/4 Size Small Double Bedframe This is a crazy price

SAVE 70% Was £149 — NOW ONLY £49 MATTRESS EXTRA

TOTAL CLEARANCE PRICE
2 SETS ONLY
The Henley Latest Design Glass Table + 4 Matching Chairs White on Black

SAVE 30% Was £499 — NOW ONLY £299

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Triple 3 Door Wardrobe	£249
Large Dressing Table	£109
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Budget	£35	£59	£69	£79
Deluxe	£69	£79	£89	£109
Orthopaedic	£79	£99	£109	£139
Memory Foam	£89	£119	£129	£159
Pocket Sprung	£139	£179	£179	£199

LOTS MORE AVAILABLE – ALL REDUCED

THE CORONA RANGE OF SOLID WOOD DINING FURNITURE WEEKEND SPECIAL
WEEKEND SPECIAL DEAL
UNBEATABLE PRICES 3 DAYS ONLY
LOWEST PRICES

Large Wide Sideboard	£155
Oblong Long TV Unit	£95
Nest of 3 Tables	£50
Coffee Table with Drawers	£59.50

TOTAL CLEARANCE PRICE
5 ONLY
The Pearl Luxury Full Double Size Orthopaedic Bed Base + Mattress

SAVE 25% Was £249 — NOW £149 HEADBOARD EXTRA

TOTAL CLEARANCE PRICE
4 ONLY
The Clio Memory Foam Superb Quality Complete Full Double Size Beds

SAVE 50% Was £449 — NOW £179

TOTAL CLEARANCE PRICE
3 ONLY
The Balmoral Extending Table Super Oak + 4 Matching Chairs CRAZY PRICE

SAVE 70% Was £349 — NOW £99

TOTAL CLEARANCE PRICE
The Borba 4 Door Wardrobe 218cm wide, 215cm long Super Storage Space Latest Colours Top Quality Wardrobe

SAVE 30% Was £499 — ONLY £299

TOTAL CLEARANCE PRICE
4 SETS ONLY
Bunk Beds Full Single Size Silver Bunks Beds CRAZY SALE PRICE

SAVE 50% Was £199 — NOW ONLY £99 MATTRESS EXTRA

TOTAL CLEARANCE PRICE
1 ONLY
The Salsa Sofas 3 Seater + 2 Seater Latest Design

SAVE 40% Was £799 — NOW ONLY £429 THE PAIR

TOTAL STOCK CLEARANCE
1 SET ONLY
The Tampa Large Dark Wood Extending Table + 4 Matching Chairs + Matching Sideboard

Was £999 — NOW ONLY £499 THE LOT

TOTAL STOCK CLEARANCE
1 ONLY
The Francesca 3 Seater Sofa + 2 Matching Reclienr Chairs

Was £1299 — NOW ONLY £699

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SALE ENDS SOON

CHRONICLE COLLECTIONS for 2017

CHRONICLE COLLECTIONS

Sprinkles Gelato – a sweet way to get through the hot summer

In what promises to be a red hot summer, West Bromwich town centre's new dessert parlour offers the perfect and most enjoyable of ways to really cool down.

Sprinkles Gelato, which opened its doors in New Square Shopping Centre in March creating 20 full and part-time jobs, offers more than 200 different flavours of ice cream, produced by hand to classic Italian recipes, for its customers who come from all over the West Midlands.

Family-run Sprinkles Gelato opened its first parlour in Portswood, Southampton in September 2012 and since then has grown to have 15 across the country.

There are always different flavours to choose from in the family-friendly New Square parlour, with a selection of 44 flavours in the cabinet at any one time.

As well as the tempting and mouth-watering range of sensational ice cream dessert delights, including sundaes, cones and tubs, Sprinkles Gelato also offers vegan-friendly sorbets, milkshakes that are perfect for summer and a new range of smoothies.

There are also waffles and crepes, cakes and and barista-made coffee – using Italian Arabica beans – to enjoy. The welcoming staff have treats to suit everyone and the parlour is ideal for special occasions like birthdays and christenings. Party bookings can be taken in store or by e-mail to theteam@sprinklesgelato.co.uk.

The family-friendly parlour can seat up to 150 inside and also has outdoor seating to enjoy dessert treats in the open air when the sun is shining.

Customers just need to find a seat, take a look through the menu and order at the bar. For those in a hurry they can just choose an ice cream to takeaway.

The friendly staff are always happy to invite customers to sample different flavours if they are struggling to decide just which one of the exciting range to enjoy.

Takeaway ice cream is available

A cheeky cherry sundae

CONTACT US

Business: Sprinkles Gelato
Address: 11, New Square Shopping Centre, West Bromwich
Tel: 0121 500 6189
Website: www. sprinklesgelato.co.uk

Age UK Sandwell offers all sorts of care and support services to help older people live their later life in comfort.

Older people can access day care and a drop in lunch club at our day centre in Beeches Road, West Bromwich, offering exercise sessions, quizzes, group games and day trips. We offer support with mobility problems and personal care from NVQ qualified, trained and experienced care workers.

Full day care sessions are provided for older people with dependent or personal care needs; those with very poor mobility, who have been assessed by social services and offered a care package or who want to pay privately. This service costs £26.49 per day with a subscription charge of £8.50 per day for activities, transport and meals.

Lunch club drop in sessions are also available at £15 per day for activities and meals. We can also offer transport to and from the day centre for the lunch club (if you live in Sandwell) at a daily charge of £2.50. If you live outside of Sandwell you will need to make your own way to us but can still attend. Free taster sessions are available - call us to arrange a place.

We offer an information and advice (including Benefits Advice); at various locations across the borough to assess if older people (particularly those aged 65+) are entitled to any additional benefits. Older people can also call us on 0121 314 4526 to access support via telephone.

Our Community Support services offer access to activities at locations across the borough including IT and digital inclusion classes (e.g. using a pc, laptop tablet, digital camera or mobile phone), Physical activity such as bowling group or exercise classes and friendship groups.

Our Creative Hub at The Wesley Community Centre in West Bromwich offers Men's Club (Mondays 10.30am -12.30pm), Exercise class (Tuesdays 12-1pm) , Tea dances (once per month), Cinema Club (once per month) Craft sessions(Wednesdays 10.30am - 12.30pm), Art club, Advice surgery drop in and Digital drop in (Thursday 1-3pm).

For information on any of these please call 0121 314 4526 or email us on info@ageuksandwell.org.uk

Age UK Sandwell Day Care

Day Care for older people

Age UK Sandwell Day Centre is based in Beeches Road West Bromwich, and offers activities for older people aged 50+ including:

- Home cooked meals by our experienced cook.
- Exercise sessions and other physical activities such as Wii bowling to maintain and improve mobility
- Day trips/days out
- Quizzes and other group games
- Support with mobility problems and personal care from NVQ Qualified, trained and experienced care workers
- Transport to and from the Day Centre each day
- Lunch club drop in sessions
- Full day care sessions are provided for older people with dependent or personal care needs,those with very poor mobility and/or have been assessed by Social services and offered a personal budget.

This service costs £26.49 per day with a subscription charge of £8.50 per day for activities,transport and meals. Lunch club drop in sessions are also available to any older person who wishes to attend social activities and make new friends.

This costs £15.50 per day for activities and meals plus £2 for transport if required.
Taster sessions are available so call now on 0121 525 2499 to arrange your place.

Volunteering with Age UK Day Care. We are always looking for people who can help us at our Day Centre, making cups of tea, helping out in the kitchen or running an activity session.

Our volunteers receive FREE training in care work, so if you would like to apply please contact us on 0121 500 1860.

Age UK Sandwell Day Care
1a Beeches Road, West Bromwich B70 6QE
e daycare@ageuksandwell.org.uk **t** 0121 525 2499
www.ageuksandwell.org.uk

New Square shows passion for fashion

We're reaching those heady days of high summer when it's all about fun, festivals and preparing for your holidays!

Although we love it, summer is often the hardest season to dress for, and it's not always plain sailing to keep your cool as the days get warmer. The great news is that there's more wearable trends on the high street than ever before, so you can breeze through summer fashion without a style faux pas in sight.

Just a few carefully chosen additions can give a fresh new look, from an oh so pretty embroidered top to some comfy sliders.

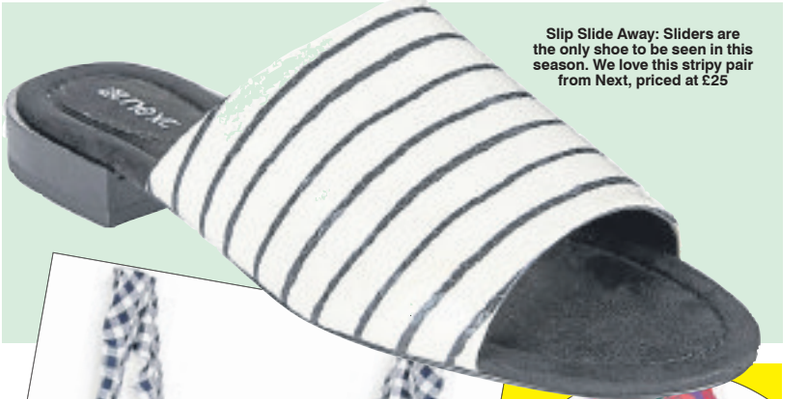
New Square Shopping Centre has put together a selection of the top summer trends from its amazing selection of high street stores including Primark, Next, River Island and Outfit Fashion to help you get your summer look on-point.

Dancers

If you want more style inspo then come along to New Square's Pop up Fashion Show on July 1 to see models, dancers and stylists showcasing all the top looks of the season! On show will be all the top trends for men, women and kids.

Join in the fun and you could also get your hands on a whole hostof fashion giveaways on the day!

Log onto www.newsquarewest bromwich.co.uk for further information, or follow New Square Shopping Centre on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.



Slip Slide Away: Sliders are the only shoe to be seen in this season. We love this stripy pair from Next, priced at £25

Top of the crops: Crop tops are everywhere this summer and are going to be part of any festival uniform. This frilly gingham one is ticking all the style boxes! And it's just £10 at Primark

Flower Power: Florals are all about being big and bold this summer and this eye popping printed skirt has a tropical feel which is also way up on our trend radar. Just team with a simple T-shirt for instant glamour. River Island £32

Sew Good: Embroidery is one trend that's been everywhere on the high street and can be worn in so many ways. This pretty shirt is one of the nicest examples around with a delicate floral print and fluted sleeves, which are also having a huge fashion moment right now. Topshop at Outfit Fashion £36

Sandwell
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Did you know there is a range of weight loss and healthy lifestyle services across Sandwell?
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Amazing Alberta loses 5st thanks to Mytime Active

Commercial feature

ALBERTA Wood, from Tipton, has lost an amazing five stone as a result of her weight-loss efforts!

Setting herself small goals and maintaining a positive attitude, Alberta has made a number of lifestyle changes from the food she eats to the amount of exercise she does.

But it was Mytime Active's 'Healthy Lifestyle Service' that has really helped her to lose weight.

Alberta says it's the best programme she's done since starting to lose weight and it has kept her focused. She explained: "The programme teaches clients how to stick to healthy things and gives useful exercise advice."

Support

Do you want to lose weight or become more active like Alberta?

Mytime Active's 'Healthy Lifestyle Service' is a FREE (for 12 weeks) weight-management programme available in Sandwell.

Participants can expect regular one-to-one support with qualified Healthy Lifestyle Specialists, access to a wide range of exercise classes throughout each of the towns in Sandwell along with Weight Watchers vouchers and reduced gym-memberships at Sandwell Leisure Trust venues and many more gyms.

As well as our regular exercise and weigh-in sessions; family and long-term conditions classes are also available which are ideal for families with young children and those who find regular exercise difficult. All classes include nutritional advice, weigh-ins and physical activity, so there will be every opportunity to lose weight in a way that's fun, approachable and right for you.

If you want to LOSE WEIGHT, call Mytime Active on 0121 366 0966, Monday-Friday 8:30am-5:30pm.

Alberta Wood, from Tipton, seen before and after her amazing weight loss

Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council

New site for one of Sandwell's top garages – Star Clutches

Commercial feature

STAR Clutches Ltd and Repair Centre are rapidly becoming one of Sandwell's top garages and repair centres, with services on offer from clutch repairs, Mots, tyres, car services and diagnostics.

Our staff make up an experienced team with over 50 years' experience in the trade.

Due to increased popularity, owner Neil Morgan has had to take the decision to move to larger premises to cope with his increasingly high work load.

Turnaround

The new site at Volkes Autos which is at 63a great Bridge Street, with the postcode B70 0DA, is a lot bigger and it will enable the firm to take on more custom.

Neil said: "Moving to larger premises with a larger MoT bay is an exciting venture which will give the customer a quicker turnaround."

He added that there were also a few exclusive offers available on request.

Neil started out as a mechanic over 20 years ago as a one-man band, and now has expanded with experienced staff and the team can cater for most things mechanical.

Neil also gave praise to his regular customers, saying his success is partly down to them through word of mouth, with a a large proportion of his new business acquired through recommendations – which is high praise indeed.

He said: "Through giving my clients a more than satisfactory and personal service they always return over the years."

For a limited time only there will £5 off all MoTs, and with free retests.

Neil added: "You can either ring 0121 5721253 to arrange an appointment or just pop along and we will see what we can do for you with the reassurance you are in the best hands possible."

Professionalism and a team with over 50 years' experience at Star Clutches

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PROGRAMME OF EVENTS

12.45pm
Richard Sneekes to Officially Open the Carnival

ARENA ACTS

Sandwell Flyers	12.50pm	–	1.00pm
St John's C of E Primary (Miss Starr's Little Stars)	1.00pm	–	1.15pm
Cheer Angels	1.15pm	–	1.30pm
Rick D's Martial Arts	1.30pm	–	1.50pm
Bhangra Music	1.50pm	–	2.25pm
Wodensborough Academy Dancers	2.25pm	–	2.35pm
Rugby Club	2.35pm	–	2.55pm
Elite Allstars – Cheer leaders	2.55pm	–	3.10pm
Kickstart	3.10pm	–	3.25pm
TS Legion Navel Cadets	3.25pm	–	3.50pm
TS Legion Marine Cadets	3.50pm	–	4.10pm
Raffle	4.10pm	–	4.30pm

ALL TIMES SUBJECT TO ALTERATION DEPENDING ON THE PREVAILING CONDITIONS ON THE DAY

ORGANISATIONS TAKING PART

Rotary Club of Wednesbury
Inner Wheel Club of Wednesbury
Navy Cadets
Wodensborough Ormiston Academy Dancers
Wednesbury Garden Services
Boys Brigade
Churches Together
Townswomens Guild
Wednesbury 2000
Elite Allstars
Utility Warehouse
SSAFA
Henna by Seema
First Aid
Westfield Cars
St Paul's with St Luke's Church
Trade Centre Wales Ltd
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Riverside Housing
Gentleshaw Wildlife Centre
Qamar Dental Practice
St Giles Hospice
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A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF WEDNESBURY ROTARY

WELCOME TO THE WEDNESBURY CARNIVAL!

I am happy to welcome everyone to this year's Rotary Club of Wednesbury Carnival

Once again we are all hoping for the best of weather and everyone involved to enjoy this family community event.

The day is all about the local community coming together to enjoy the event which is the end result of a lot of hard work by Rotarians in the town.

Not to be forgotten are the ladies of the Inner Wheel Club and Rotarians wives who will be seen assisting at the event and support us throughout each year, a big thank you.

There has been a lot of work carried out in preparation with far too many people involved to be mentioned here, however I am grateful to richard Sneekes, a well known local famous footballer for agreeing to open the carnival.

Everyone attending, the stall holders, the fair, acts and of course you the members of the public all contribute to making this day an annual success.

I am unable to close without thanking the people of Wednesbury for the support and generous contribution to our other endeavours in particular the annual December Father Christmas float.

I am proud to have been elected President for the forthcoming year and hope to meet as many of you as possible on the day.

Once again have a great day.

Maurice Ward
President 2017/2018
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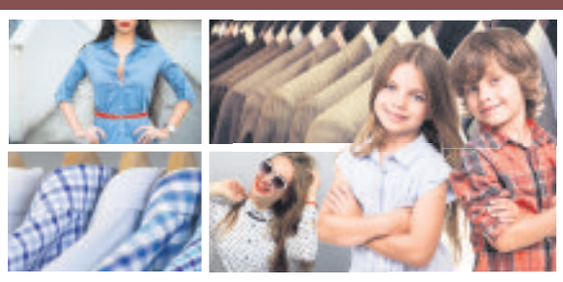

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The Ticket

OUT OF THE BLUE: ANTONY ON STAGE

INSIDE

MUSIC + THEATRE + TV GUIDE + PUZZLES

International Festival of Glass

In August sites across the Stourbridge Glass Quarter, including Red House Glass Cone, White House Glass Cone and Ruskin Glass Centre will be celebrating the areas glass heritage past and present when the glass festival returns to over the August Bank Holiday weekend 25-28 August. Exhibitions, demonstrations and activities will fill the 4 day event, with a packed programme.

For further details visit www.rmlt.org.uk/international-festival-of-glass

All Rise! Antony in Grand stage thriller

He's best known as the boy band singer who enjoyed hits with Too Close, All Rise and Sorry Seems To Be The Hardest Word. But before Antony Costa was scoring number one hit singles with the all-conquering Blue he was in fact, a child actor.

One of his earliest roles was a pupil in Steven Moffat's sitcom Chalk and he then went on to appear in the BBC's Grange Hill.

Having surfed the waves of the Blue reunion in recent years, Antony is returning to his roots. He's treading the boards in theatre, starring in Ruth Rendell's A Judgement In Stone. From Monday until July 8, he'll line up alongside a starry cast at Wolverhampton's Grand, featuring Andrew Lancel, Sophie Ward, Mark Wynter, Deborah Grant, Shirley Anne Field and Ben Nealon.

"I'm thrilled," he says. "It's been really, really good. We've had some fantastic reviews and it's a great cast of people."

The Bill Kenwright-produced show builds on the phenomenal decade-long success of The Agatha Christie Company. It is a new production adapted from one of the most celebrated works of the writer often hailed as the successor to Agatha Christie.

The action centres around Eunice, who struggles to fit in. When she joins a wealthy family as their housekeeper the very reason for her awkwardness, long hidden and deeply buried, leads inexorably to a terrible tale of murder in cold blood – on Valentine's Day.

The brilliant plot unravels a lifetime of deceit, despair and cover-ups which, when revealed, brings a shocking revelation almost as grizzly as murder itself.

Antony stars alongside former Corrie star Andrew Lancel

THRILLER

Antony loves it. "There's something not quite right with Eunice and no one can see why. But I think what Ruth Rendell did so well was to more or less go on the psychology side of things. Why do these people do it? Why do they murder and everything else? It's a great show, a very fast-moving thriller and people are with us from start to finish."

Though Antony started his career as a child actor, he admits he still has much to learn. And featuring alongside some of the best in the business – like Andrew Lancel – has been inspiring. He's learned much from old hands of the stage and hopes it will hold him in good stead.

"There are a lot of old school people in the show, but for me I'm always learning. If you stop learning, that's the time to quit. For now, I'm loving every minute of it. I hope the people of Wolverhampton do too.

"The thing is that I've always acted. I was a trained actor as a kid. My life went a different direction when I was 18. I loved pop videos and I was so interested in that aspect. When we were in Blue, it wasn't just about turning up, singing your song and going. I wanted to do more. So when this came up and Bill Kenwright called, I jumped at the chance. It gives me another string to my bow."

For a man who's spent most of his life in the spotlight, Antony is enjoying the chance to be out of it. He's very much part of the supporting cast, rather than a lead player, and feels the pressure is off. He can relax into his character and watch as experienced pros lead the line.

He also enjoys the fact that the audience are going to see a play – rather than see him sing. He knows it's about his character, rather than him.

"This gives me a new lease of life. I'm always learning. Nine out of 10 people at a pop concert are there to see me sing. That's why they come. It's about me, rather than the show. But this is the opposite. It's about the show, not me. And that takes the pressure off. My job is simple – I just need to give 110 per cent."

Some things don't change, of course, and Antony is back on the road with the show, just as he was in Blue. He's travelling the length of the country – though his visit to Wolverhampton might be punctuated by an important arrival.

"I love being on the road and I've done it since I was 18. But it will be a weird week in Wolverhampton because my baby is due. If I get the call, I've got to go. For the first couple of days, I'll be there. But then the baby is due on the July 6. So we'll just have to see what happens. But I'm looking forward to the Grand Theatre. I've never been before."

And once A Judgement In Stone is done – and he's finished changing the nappies – he's keen to come back. Antony is open to more stage work and hopes it'll lead to TV acting roles.

> *It's about the show, not me. And that takes the pressure off. My job's simple*

"I want to do more stage work and if TV arose I'd jump on the chance. It all depends on timing or whether the part's right. You never know what's in the audience watching you. But I love it mate, I absolutely love it. The cast getting applause at the end is amazing.

"When we used to do a Blue tour, people booked tickets to see us which we were thankful for. But it's different now. I could sing a couple of lines of a song to a Blue crowd and they'd cheer. But for me, I like to get into the depth of a character. I like to be someone else for two and a half hours."

Not that Antony's acting ambitions spell the end of Blue. They'll be back every now and then.

"Listen mate, you know, if there's gigs coming up with the boys and the climate's right, we'll do a few shows. If there's an album and it's right, we'll do it. Bu it love being on stage right now and I need this for me. I don't want to live with regret because I didn't do this. You got to be selfish and do something yourself once in a while."

● **For more entertainment news and reviews see The Ticket in your Express & Star every Friday.**

Scene from Curious Incident...

Curious hit play returns to wow audiences again

Award-winning play The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time returns to the West Midland next week for a week-long run in Birmingham.

The second national tour of the Olivier and Tony Award-winning production will be staged at Birmingham Hippodrome from Tuesday to Saturday, July 4 to 8.

Earlier this month the play adapted from Mark Haddon's best seller by Simon Stephens ended its run in the West End after nearly five successful years.

The National Theatre production directed by Marianne Elliott picked up a record-breaking seven Oliver Awards and has been seen by more than a million people in London.

A delirious and dazzling blend of maths, technology, drama and humour, it tells of teenager Christopher Boone, who has an extraordinary brain that means he is brilliant at maths but ill-equipped to deal with everyday life. His investigation into the killing of a neighbour's dog turns his life upside down.

Playing the role of Christopher in Birmingham will be Scott Reid, recently seen in BBCTV comedy Still Game.

National Theatre producer Kash Bennett said: "We were overwhelmed by the enthusiastic reception from audiences around the UK and Ireland when we toured The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time in 2014-15, playing to almost 400,000 people, and are delighted to take this beautiful and inventive show to new venues and make a return to others."

See www.birminghamhippodrome.com or call 0844 338 5000.

Focus on daring shows in festival

BE Festival, Birmingham's summer festival of international performing arts, returns to Birmingham Repertory Theatre from Tuesday to Saturday, July 4 to 8.

It is a celebration that showcases daring new theatre, dance and circus from Spain, Portugal, Italy, Switzerland, France, Germany, Greece and beyond.

Organisers say that in the wake of the Brexit referendum, organisations such as BE Festival has a greater responsibility to maintain bridges with the wider artistic community.

Highlights include Asingleline, from Germany, an outdoor project that will literally stretch a single two-kilometre line of red tape from Ladywood over parks and roads into Birmingham Rep.

British Enough?, from Uzbekistan and the UK, is a new piece of immersive theatre that plays with the idea of the British Citizenship Test. Anatomia Publica, from Spain and France, is a story of strange relationships in the aftermath of war told through movement.

Highlights in the main evening theatre programme include Portraits and Short Stories by Dutch company Panama Pictures, who combine a daring use of ropes, trampolines, and acrobatics. Odc Ensemble's show Revolt Athens is a unique city guide that looks at the living and breathing reality of Greece's capital.

Out of the competition of the main festival, Animal Religion from Spain present their show Indomador, pictured, in which a circus ringmaster performs daring feats, whilst attempting to control his inner animal, a comical yet punchy comment on identity.

Miguel Oyarzun, co-director of BE Festival, said: "Here, in the inclusive city of Birmingham, the multifaceted cultural identities and creativity of a continent will once again be celebrated."

There is a whole festival pass for £100 (£60 without dinner) or day/evening passes for £22, £14 or £12 concessions. See www.befestival.org or www.birmingham-rep.co.uk

Kemp converses and Decker rocks

An Audience with Martin Kemp on Tuesday evening at the Robin 2 in Bilston includes an hour-long question and answer session at the seated event. The 55-year-old, pictured, found fame as a pop heartthrob in Spandau Ballet in the 1980s, played EastEnders villain Steve Owen and was recently a judge on talent show Let It Shine.

Another '80s icon, Carol Decker, fronts her band T'Pau in concert at the Robin 2 on July 6.

See therobin.co.uk or call 01902 401211.

Just Floyd ready for a chilled-out Sunday

Fans of Pink Floyd can chill out to an afternoon of their favourite sounds when tribute band Just Floyd play at Bilston's Robin 2 venue at 1pm on Sunday, focussing on the era of Dark Side of the Moon, Wish You Were Here and The Wall.

The same venue hosts Irish blues band Crow Black Chicken on Monday and a four-band bill of Midlands metal on Wednesday with Electus, Wakedown, Crows & Crosses and Michael Pritchard. More home grown hard rock can be heard on Saturday at the Slade Rooms in Wolverhampton when Our World Below top a five-band bill also featuring Master's Call, My Brother The Wolf, Rustlung and Enemy Of Atlas.

On Sunday there is contemporary Nashville country music at the Slade Rooms from duo Jon Stone and Kristy Osmunson, known as American Young.

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SATURDAY'S TV JULY 1

CHOICE

Melvyn Bragg

Melvyn Bragg on TV: The Box that Changed the World (BBC2, 9pm)
Ken Loach, Joan Bakewell, Trevor Phillips, Michael Grace, Martha Kearney, Ed Balls, Lyse Doucet and Alex Crawford join Melvyn Bragg as he explores the extraordinary impact British television has made on the nation's culture since its first great unifying moment – the coronation of Queen Elizabeth II in 1953. Filmed at Bafta, Bragg and his interviewees highlight the way television has reflected and influenced Great Britain has a whole, challenging authority, redefining celebrity, and evolving the concept of democracy.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Live. **11.30** Mary Berry Cooks. (R) **12.00** BBC News; Weather. **12.15** Tennis from Eastbourne. The AEGON International final. **3.00** Escape to the Country. (R) **3.30 Film:** Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade. (1989) Action adventure sequel, starring Harrison Ford and Sean Connery. **5.25** BBC News. **5.35** Regional Programme. **5.45** Pointless Celebrities. (R)

6.30 Doctor Who. Peter Capaldi's tenure as the Doctor draws close to its conclusion, as the Mondasian Cybermen rise. Not seen since the classic, pre-2005 series, the original Cybermen came from Mondas, "Earth's twin planet", and posed a fearsome threat to the Time Lord and his companions. Now, as these sinister cyborgs begin a new conquest, and the Doctor makes a final stand to protect a tiny band of humans from utter destruction. Pearl Mackie and Matt Lucas also star as Bill and Nardole, Michelle Gomez reprises her role as Missy, while John Simm puts in an appearance as the Master. Last in the series.

7.30 Pitch Battle. Mel Giedroyc hosts the third heat of the choral music contest, as six more choirs and vocal groups battle for a place in the Grand Final. This week, young chamber choir Tring Park, musical theatre enthusiasts 16, a capella group Oxford Alternotives, classical quintet Vox-Xover, all-female pop outfit Vocalities, and Dublin barbershop chorus The Ramparts all seek to impress judges Gareth Malone, Kelis, and guest adjudicator Joe Jonas. Plus, Pitch Battle's resident music director Deke Sharon opens the contest with a musical mash-up.

9.00 Casualty. Sam steps down as medical director to take a more hands-on role in the ED, and a feisty patient pushes Dylan over the edge as he struggles to cope in the wake of Cal's death.

9.50 BBC News; Weather.; National Lottery Update.

10.10 Film: Avengers Assemble. (2012) Iron Man, Thor, Captain America and the Hulk join forces to defend Earth from an alien invasion. Superhero adventure, starring Robert Downey Jr.

12.25 Weather for the Week Ahead.
12.30 BBC News.

BBC2

6.10 A to Z of TV Gardening. (R) **6.55 Film:** Carnival Story. (1954) **8.30 Film:** The Maggie. (1954) **10.00** Monty Halls' Great Irish Escape. (R) **11.00** Homes Under the Hammer. (R) **12.00** Food & Drink. (R) **12.30** Bargain Hunt. (R) **1.15** Peter O'Toole: Talking Pictures. (R) **2.00 Film:** Kidnapped. (1960) Historical adventure, starring Peter Finch. **3.30** Money for Nothing. (R) **4.15** Flog It! The team visit Blackpool Tower Circus. (R) **5.00** Gardeners' World. Rachel de Thame investigates how gardeners can aid honey bee conservation. (R)

6.00 The Day the Dinosaurs Died. An expedition to determine if an asteroid strike 66 million years ago triggered a catastrophe that killed off the dinosaurs and wiped out 75 per cent of all life on Earth. (R)

7.00 Nature's Wildest Weapons: Horns, Tusks and Antlers: Natural World. Professor Doug Emlen examines how animals use their bodies as weapons, from elephants to rhinoceros beetles, assessing whether they are more than just instruments of blunt force. (R)

8.00 Manchester International Festival: Everyone Welcome. Lemn Sissay tours Manchester's biennial international arts festival, which features more than 60 new works by local and international artists.

8.30 Dad's Army. Frazer is asked to look after the platoon's Lewis gun, but finds himself in hot water when he misplaces the spring – and fears it is has been left inside a coffin. (R)

9.00 Melvyn Bragg on TV: The Box that Changed the World. Melvyn Bragg is joined by celebrity guests as he explores the impact television has made on British culture since the coronation of Queen Elizabeth II in 1953.

11.00 Film: Sex & Drugs & Rock & Roll. (2010) Biopic of influential punk singer Ian Dury, focusing on the impact his rise to fame and volatile personality had on his relationship with his son. With Andy Serkis and Bill Milner.

12.50 Film: The Deep. (2012) A trawler crewman swims to shore after his vessel capsizes, but is tormented by survivors' guilt. Fact-based drama, with Olafur Darri Ólafsson and Johann G Johannsson.
2.20 This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. **6.10** Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. (R) **6.20** Sooty. (R) **6.30** Signed Stories: Share a Story. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.50** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **7.00** Oddbods. (R) **7.05** Super 4. (R) **7.20** Marvel Avengers Assemble. (R) **7.45** Thunderbirds Are Go. (R) **8.10** Ben 10. **8.25** ITV News. **8.30** Weekend. **9.25** The Home Game. (R) **10.25 Film:** Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone. (2001) **1.15** ITV News; Weather. **1.30** ITV Racing: Live from Newcastle. Coverage from Newcastle and Newmarket. **4.00** The Chase. (R) **5.00** Paul O'Grady: For the Love of Dogs. (R) **5.30** Little Big Shots US.

6.25 Regional Programme; Weather.
6.35 ITV News; Weather.

6.45 Catchphrase. Contestants Amy, Anthony and Abby join Stephen Mulhern to "see it and say it", as they try to guess the familiar phrases hidden in animated clues. After the first elimination, the two remaining players battle to reach the Super Catchphrase round, where one of them could win £50,000.

7.30 The Voice Kids. The junior version of the singing talent contest continues, as Emma Willis ushers more youngsters between the ages of eight and 14 to the stage for a chance at stardom. With the Blind Auditions now beyond their halfway point, the pressure is on for judges Will.i.am, Danny Jones and Pixie Lott to finish filling their teams ahead of the battle rounds.

9.00 Film: Quantum of Solace. (2008) James Bond sets out on a personal mission of vengeance as he pursues the secret criminal organisation Quantum. His search leads him to the head of an ecological corporation, who is plotting to orchestrate a coup in a Latin American country to get his hands on a precious natural resource. Spy thriller sequel, starring Daniel Craig, Olga Kurylenko, Judi Dench, Gemma Arterton and Mathieu Amalric.

11.05 ITV News; Weather.

11.25 Rebound. Sean Fletcher hosts the quickfire quiz that tests the general knowledge of six contestants, who go head to head in a bid to walk away with a big cash prize. (R)

12.25 Jackpot247. **3.00** Who's Doing the Dishes? (R) **3.50** ITV Nightscreen.

CHANNEL 4

6.10 3rd Rock from the Sun. (R) **6.35** Mobil 1 The Grid. **7.05** Motor Sport: Ypres Rally. **7.35** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.00** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.25** Frasier. (R) **8.55** Frasier. (R) **9.30** Frasier. (R) **10.00** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **10.25** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **10.55** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **11.20** The Simpsons. (R) **11.50** The Simpsons. (R) **12.20** The Simpsons. (R) **12.50** Four in a Bed. (R) **1.25** Four in a Bed. (R) **1.55** Four in a Bed. (R) **2.30** Four in a Bed. (R) **3.00** Four in a Bed. (R) **3.35** A Place in the Sun: Winter Sun. (R) **4.35** Big House, Little House. **5.35** Kirstie and Phil's Love It or List It. (R)

6.30 Channel 4 News.

7.00 The Autistic Gardener. Alan Gardner comes to the aid of two families in London that are seeking to transform their adjoining back gardens into one big playground for their children. Claire and Tim, and their neighbours Jess and Karl have four boys between them, and while they all agree the space should provide the kids with a safe space to play, Claire and Tim seek a romantic plot, while Jess and Karl would like to bring a touch of the Mediterranean to their home. Plus, Alan heads to Austin, Texas, where he finds an unusual source of inspiration for this project – in the form of a jumbo jet engine. Last in the series.

8.00 Film: Life of Pi. (2012) A writer interviews a man about the extraordinary events of his life. He describes his childhood in India, living in the zoo run by his father, and how the family and their animals were forced to relocate to Canada when he was a teenager. However, during the sea voyage, the ship sank and he was left adrift in a small boat with a ferocious tiger. Ang Lee's adventure based on Yann Martel's novel, starring Suraj Sharma and Irrfan Khan.

10.25 Film: Last Vegas. (2013) Four sixtysomething friends decide to relive their wild youth with a trip to Las Vegas. Comedy, with Michael Douglas, Robert De Niro, Morgan Freeman and Kevin Kline.

12.30 Ramsay's Hotel Hell. (R) **1.15** Hollyoaks. Omnibus. Hunter is devastated by Neeta's decision. **3.15** Ackley Bridge. (R) **4.10** Location, Location, Location. (R) **5.05** Kirstie's Fill Your House for Free. (R) **5.15** Fifteen to One. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! **10.15** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. (R) **10.50** Dogs Make You Laugh Out Loud 2. (R) **11.15** Police Interceptors. (R) **12.10** Police Interceptors. (R) **1.10** The Great British Benefits Handout. (R) **2.10** The Nightmare Neighbour Next Door. (R) **3.10** The Nightmare Neighbour Next Door. (R) **4.05** Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away. (R) **5.00** Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away. (R)

6.00 5 News Weekend.

6.05 Funniest Dogs Behaving Badly. Comedians Des Clarke and Katy Brand present a selection of the internet's most popular videos featuring dogs, including one with a pooch dressed in a tarantula costume. (R)

7.00 Blind Date. Paul O'Grady seeks a would-be sweetheart for Arnold, who emigrated from Africa to Manchester, and served with the British Army in Afghanistan for nearly five years. Arnold's idea of a perfect date would involve a spin on the London Eye, and Paul gives three ladies a chance to woo the gentlemanly soldier. Meanwhile, finance director Gemma – also from Manchester – seeks an adventurous Prince Charming to settle down and start a family with. Plus, the host catches up with last week's couples, to find out whether that initial spark of attraction could develop into something more.

8.00 Greatest Celebrity Wind-Ups Ever! Joe Pasquale revisits hilarious celebrity pranks, with first-hand accounts from the people responsible for staging the tricks, and the unfortunate stars on the receiving end.

9.00 Big Brother. Daily round-up of highlights, revealing how the housemates are getting on under the all-seeing eye of Big Brother, featuring the latest tasks, games, arguments, laughs, diary room visits and bedroom chit-chat. Narrated by Marcus Bentley.

10.05 Moments That Rocked Talent Shows. A journey through the instances that rocked the genre and the fall-out that followed. (R)

11.30 Lip Sync Battle UK: Rufus Hound v Jorgie Porter. (R)

11.55 Access.

12.00 SuperCasino. **3.10 Film:** Vampire Academy. (2014) **4.50** Great Artists. (R) **5.15** Wildlife SOS. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Four
7.00 Britain and the Sea **8.00** Nature's Great Events **9.00 Film:** Kon-Tiki (2012) **10.50** Top of the Pops: 1984 **11.50** Old Grey Whistle Test: 70's Gold **1.20** The Who at the Electric Proms **2.10** Totally British: 70s Rock 'n' Roll **3.10** Close

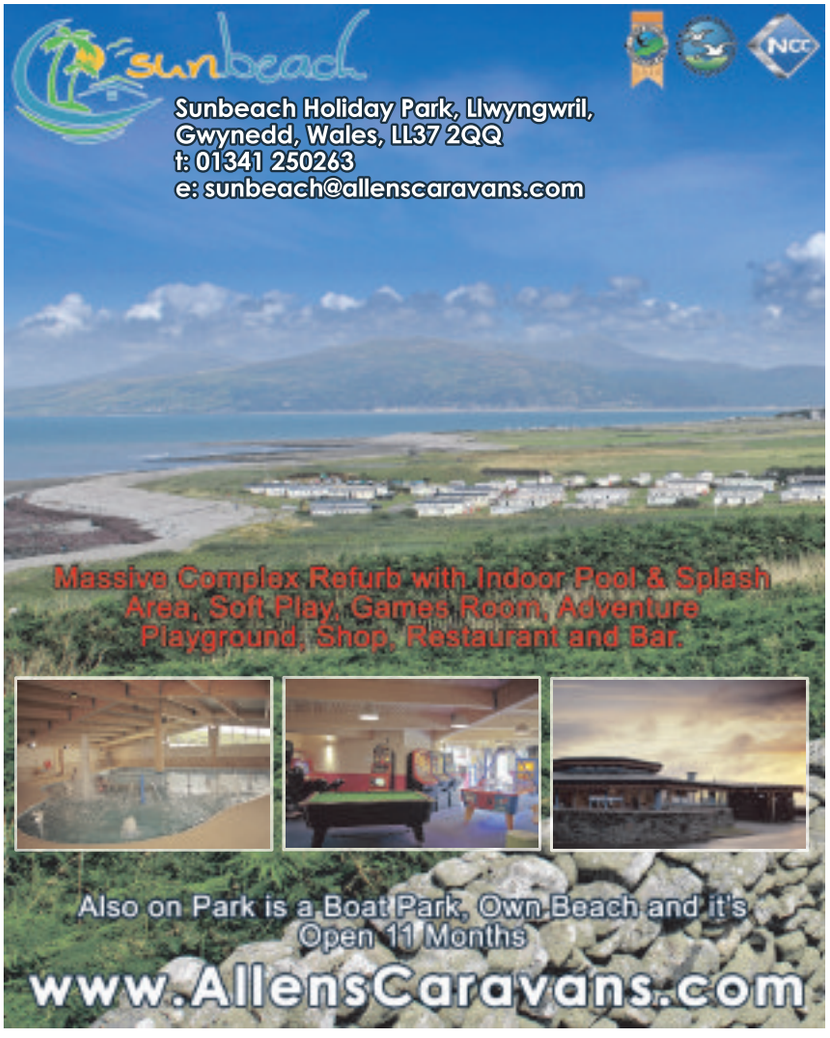
ITV2
11.00 Take Me Out **12.10** You've Been Framed! Gold Harry's Favourites **1.10 Film:** Dragonheart (1996) **2.15** FYI Daily **2.20 Film:** Dragonheart (1996) **3.10 Film:** Beethoven's 2nd (1993) **4.10** FYI Daily **4.15 Film:** Beethoven's 2nd (1993) **5.00 Film:** Flubber (1997) **6.00** FYI Daily **6.05 Film:** Flubber (1997) **6.50 Film:** The Wedding Planner (2001) **7.50** FYI Daily **7.55 Film:** The Wedding Planner (2001) **9.00** Love Island: The Weekly Hot List **10.00** Celebrity Juice **10.50** Family Guy **12.20** American Dad! **12.45 Film:** Get Him to the Greek (2010) **1.45** FYI Daily **1.50 Film:** Get Him to the Greek (2010) **2.50** Teleshopping **5.50** ITV2 Nightscreen

ITV3
11.40 Inspector Morse **1.55** Hans Christian Andersen: My Life as a Fairy Tale **3.50** Wycliffe **4.55** Agatha Christie's Marple **9.00** Foyle's War **11.05** Law & Order: UK **2.00** ITV3 Nightscreen **2.30** Teleshopping

ITV4
11.00 Film: Rio Bravo (1959) **12.05** FYI Daily **12.10 Film:** Rio Bravo (1959) **2.00** Tour de France Live. Coverage of stage one. **6.00** Storage Wars **7.00** Tour de France Highlights **8.00** The Big Fish Off **9.00 Film:** Eraser (1996) **10.00** FYI Daily **10.05 Film:** Eraser (1996) **11.20 Film:** Total Recall (1990) **12.20** FYI Daily **12.25 Film:** Total Recall (1990) **1.35** Tour de France Highlights **2.35** Counting Cars **3.00** Teleshopping

E4
12.30 The Goldbergs **1.55 Film:** Tooth Fairy (2010) **4.00** The Big Bang Theory **8.00 Film:** Thor (2011) **10.15** The Inbetweeners **11.20** Gogglebox **1.30** Tattoo Fixers **2.25** Marvel's Agents of SHIELD **3.10** The Inbetweeners **4.05** How I Met Your Mother

Film4
11.00 Stuart Little (1999) **1.00** Hugo (2011) **3.25** Dunston Checks In (1996) **5.10** The Rewrite (2014) **7.20** Chronicle (2012) **9.00** Bad Neighbours (2014) A suburban couple enter into a vicious game of one-upmanship with the raucous student household living next door. Comedy, starring Seth Rogen. **10.50** Extraterrestrial (2014) **12.55** Five Deadly Venoms (1978) **3.05** Close



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SUNDAY'S TV JULY 2

CHOICE

George Best

George Best: All By Himself (BBC2, 9pm)
Documentary telling the story of the reserved young football prodigy from Belfast who became a global superstar, but whose career was blighted by his battle with the pressures of fame. The film reveals how the player dubbed El Beatle helped Manchester United to win two league titles and the European Cup, but his extravagant lifestyle led to various problems, most notably alcoholism.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **9.00** The Andrew Marr Show. **10.00** Sunday Morning Live. **11.00** Regional Programme. **12.15** Bargain Hunt. (R) **1.00** BBC News; Weather. **1.15** Homes Under the Hammer. (R) **2.00** Money for Nothing. (R) **2.45** Escape to the Country. (R) **3.45** Eat Well for Less? (R) **4.45** Songs of Praise. **5.20** Sue Barker: Our Wimbledon.

6.35 BBC News.

6.50 Regional Programme.

7.00 Countryfile. Ellie Harrison meets a family making natural cordials and presses using their own elderflowers, before visiting Worcester Cathedral to catch a glimpse of its lesser horseshoe bats, thought to be the only urban population in the country. Adam Henson heads to the Peak District and explains why he has decided to send his beef cattle to an animal sanctuary in Norfolk rather than the slaughterhouse.

8.00 Antiques Roadshow. The roving team values more decorative objects and rarities belonging to the public.

9.00 Poldark. A grain ship is raided by starving villagers, and George arranges a harsh punishment for the desperate peasants while throwing a lavish Christmas party to impress the local gentry. Caroline hears news that the Admiralty has arranged for the release of the British officers, but Ross is not convinced, lamenting the loss of Wheal Leisure to George, and having seen miners broken by the terms of their labour. Demelza gives birth to a daughter, and warns Morwenna against a relationship with Drake.

10.00 BBC News.

10.20 Regional Programme.

10.30 Miranda Hart – My What I Call Live Show. A filmed performance from the comedian's nationwide stand-up tour, combining stand-up comedy, sketches, songs and dance and featuring anecdotes ranging from flatulent first dates to socially inept children. (R)

11.30 The Week the Landlords Moved In. A transformative series challenging some of Britain's most successful landlords to spend an eye-opening week living in one of their own rental properties. (R)

12.30 Weather for the Week Ahead.
12.35 BBC News.

BBC2

6.20 The Instant Gardener. (R) **7.05** Gardeners' World. (R) **8.05** The Beechgrove Garden. **8.35** Countryfile. (R) **9.35** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. **11.05** Wimbledon 2016 Review. **12.00** Athletics: Diamond League Highlights. **1.00** Athletics: World Championship Team Trials. Live coverage from Alexander Stadium in Birmingham. **5.00** Inside the Factory: How Our Favourite Foods Are Made. (R)

6.00 The Fifteen Billion Pound Railway: The Final Countdown. Part one of two. Return of the documentary about the construction of the Crossrail train line linking east and west London, following those racing to complete the work in time for the first trains to run in May. Engineer Linda Miller and her team must battle ancient fault lines that threaten the Farringdon station site with flooding, while construction workers build innovative floating rail tracks directly under the Barbican Concert Hall. Julian Barratt narrates. (R)

7.00 Dragons' Den. The panel assesses more money-spinning ideas, including an unusual coffee lid, a range of coconut-based products, and a safety device for hairstyling gadgets. Evan Davis presents. (R)

8.00 The Life Swap Adventure. A daredevil Tennessee cowboy and a fun-loving Welsh office worker – both heirs to their lucrative family businesses – trade places hoping to find a new perspective on their lives.

9.00 Film: George Best: All By Himself. (2016) Documentary telling the story of the reserved young football prodigy from Belfast who became a global superstar, but whose career was blighted by his battle with the pressures of fame. The film reveals how the player dubbed El Beatle helped Manchester United to win two league titles and the European Cup, but his extravagant lifestyle led to various problems, most notably alcoholism.

10.30 Mock the Week. (R)

11.05 White Gold. Vincent finds himself kicked out of his family home, and Lavender is drawn back into the world of rock and roll as he has his own career crisis. (R)

11.35 Film: Burke & Hare. (2010)

1.00 Sign Zone: Question Time. (R) **2.00** Holby City. (R) **3.00** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. **6.10** Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. (R) **6.20** Sooty. (R) **6.30** Signed Stories: Share a Story. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.50** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **7.00** Oddbods. (R) **7.05** Super 4. (R) **7.20** Marvel Avengers Assemble. (R) **7.45** Thunderbirds Are Go. (R) **8.10** Ben 10. **8.25** ITV News. **8.30** Weekend. **9.25** Judge Rinder. (R) **10.20** Judge Rinder. (R) **11.20** Tipping Point. (R) **12.25** ITV News; Weather. **12.35** Babushka. (R) **1.35** The Voice Kids. (R) **3.05** Bear Grylls Survival School. (R) **3.30 Film:** Hulk. (2003) Comic-strip adventure, starring Eric Bana.

6.05 Regional Programme; Weather.

6.15 ITV News; Weather.

6.30 Live 2017 FIFA Confederations Cup. The final (Kick-off 7.00pm). Coverage of the showpiece match from Saint Petersburg Stadium in Russia. Brazil produced a fine performance in front of their own fans four years ago to lift the trophy after defeating then world and European champions Spain 3-0, with Fred scoring early goals in each half and player of the tournament Neymar also finding the net. Subsequent programmes subject to change.

9.30 The Loch. Craig Petrie becomes a suspect in both murders, and Blake assists in questioning him. However, he quickly turns the tables on the police and casts doubt on Leighton's innocence. Annie investigates his claims further, and her loyalty to Leighton is shaken when she discovers his alibi is a lie. Smilie tries to comfort Jonjo's father, but is rejected.

10.30 ITV News; Weather.

10.50 Lethal Weapon. As Riggs' attachment to Karen Palmer deepens, so do his impulsive actions – a cause of further concern for Captain Avery. Clayne Crawford and Kevin Rahm star. (R)

11.45 Take Me Out. Men try to impress 30 single women and win a date – but must get the female participants to keep their lights on as a sign of approval. Paddy McGuinness presents. (R)

12.40 Jackpot247. Viewers get the chance to participate in live interactive gaming from the comfort of their sofas, with a mix of roulette-wheel spins and lively chat from the presenting team. **3.00** Motorsport UK. Action from Oulton Park. **3.50** ITV Nightscreen.

CHANNEL 4

6.10 3rd Rock from the Sun. (R) **6.35** 3rd Rock from the Sun. (R) **7.00** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **7.30** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **7.55** Frasier. (R) **8.25** Frasier. (R) **8.55** Eating Well with Hemsley + Hemsley. **9.30** Sunday Brunch. **12.30** Eat the Week. **1.30** George Clarke's Amazing Spaces. (R) **2.30 Film:** Dante's Peak. (1997) **4.35** A Place in the Sun: Winter Sun. (R) **5.35** Homes by the Sea.

6.30 Channel 4 News.

7.00 Grand Designs. Kevin McCloud follows software executive Andy and garden designer Nicki, who are planning to build a "floating" house on the Thames, which would be the first of its kind in the UK. Their architect has come up with an ambitious, experimental design that would see the whole property magically rise up with the flood waters. However, no one knows whether it will work, and the project soon becomes bogged down in the logistical challenges of bringing to fruition such a complex structure on a small island that is only accessible by a narrow footbridge. (R)

8.00 Dunkirk: The New Evidence. Documentary examining the famous Second World War evacuation of Allied soldiers – codenamed Operation Dynamo – from the beaches of Dunkirk, France, between May 26 and June 4, 1940.

9.00 The Handmaid's Tale. When a trade delegation from Mexico comes to Gilead, Offred discovers several shocking secrets. Serena Joy reflects on her marriage and the role she played in Gilead's inception. Drama based on the novel by Margaret Atwood and set in the dystopia of Gilead, a totalitarian society in what was formerly part of the United States. Starring Elisabeth Moss and Yvonne Strahovski.

10.15 8 Out of 10 Cats Does Countdown. Jimmy Carr hosts the words-and-numbers quiz, as Jon Richardson and David O'Doherty take on Johnny Vegas and Jamie Laing. Holly Walsh helps out in Dictionary Corner. (R)

11.10 Film: Trance. (2013) Crime thriller, starring James McAvoy.

1.00 Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA. (R) **1.50** The Last Leg. (R) **2.45** KOTV Boxing Weekly. **3.15** Gillette World Sport. **3.40** Mobil 1 The Grid. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake!: Pip Ahoy! **6.10** Milkshake! Monkey. (R) **6.15** Milkshake! Bop Box. (R) **6.20** Mr Men. **6.30** Peppa Pig. (R) **6.35** Peppa Pig. (R) **6.40** Wissper. (R) **6.50** Paw Patrol. (R) **7.00** Bob the Builder. (R) **7.15** Fireman Sam. (R) **7.25** Olly the Little White Van. (R) **7.30** Olly the Little White Van. (R) **7.35** Paw Patrol. (R) **7.50** Blaze and the Monster Machines. **8.10** Noddy: Toyland Detective. (R) **8.25** Wissper. (R) **8.40** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **8.55** Shimmer and Shine. (R) **9.15** Little Princess. (R) **9.30** Peppa Pig. (R) **9.40** Peppa Pig. (R) **9.50** Peppa Pig. (R) **10.00** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **10.15** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. **10.55** The Gadget Show. (R) **11.45** Police Interceptors. (R) **12.40** Police Interceptors. (R) **1.40** Police Interceptors. (R) **2.40 Film:** Made of Honor. (2008) **4.40 Film:** 13 Going on 30. (2004) **5.40** 5 News Update. **5.45 Film:** 13 Going on 30. (2004)

6.30 Film: The Flintstones. (1994) Blue-collar caveman Fred Flintstone is promoted to manager and gets embroiled in an embezzlement plot. Live-action version of the cartoon comedy, with John Goodman and Rick Moranis.

8.05 That's So 1984. A look at the year that saw the Brighton hotel bombing, Torvill and Dean win gold at the Winter Olympics with their famous Bolero routine, the death of comedian Eric Morecambe and Virgin Atlantic Airways make its inaugural flight. Featuring hits by Black Lace, Cyndi Lauper, Sade and Frankie Goes to Hollywood. (R)

8.55 5 News Weekend.

9.00 Big Brother. Daily round-up of highlights, featuring the latest tasks, games, arguments, laughs, diary room visits and bedroom chit-chat. Narrated by Marcus Bentley.

10.05 OMG. The story of a woman who has made several extreme changes to her body, including amputating a finger. Plus, people with large amounts of body piercing and tattoos.

11.05 Film: The Vow. (2012) A woman wakes up after a car crash with no memory of her husband, who tries to get her to fall in love with him again. Romantic drama, with Rachel McAdams.

1.05 SuperCasino. **3.10** The Hotel Inspector. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Four
7.00 Handmade in Japan: Samurai Sword **7.30** Handmade in Japan: The Kimono **8.00** Handmade in Japan: Pottery **8.30** Schönbrunn Summer Night Concert from Vienna **10.00** Oink: Man Loves Pig – Storyville **11.20** Climate Change by Numbers **12.35** Darwin's Struggle: The Evolution of the Origin of Species **1.35** Nature's Great Events **2.35** Boxing at the Movies: Kings of the Ring **3.35** Close

ITV2
11.15 The Voice Kids **12.45 Film:** The Flintstones in Viva Rock Vegas (2000) **1.45** FYI Daily **1.50 Film:** The Flintstones in Viva Rock Vegas (2000) **2.35 Film:** A Cinderella Story (2004) **3.35** FYI Daily **3.40 Film:** A Cinderella Story (2004) **4.30 Film:** Charlie and the Chocolate Factory (2005) **5.30** FYI Daily **5.35 Film:** Charlie and the Chocolate Factory (2005) **6.45 Film:** Step Up 3 (2010) **7.45** FYI Daily **7.50 Film:** Step Up 3 (2010) **9.00** Love Island **10.00** Love Island: Aftersun **11.00** Family Guy **12.30** American Dad! **1.55** Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records **2.25** Teleshopping **5.55** ITV2 Nightscreen

ITV3
11.25 The Darling Buds of May **12.40** Bertie and Elizabeth **2.50** Wycliffe **3.55** Foyle's War **6.00** Agatha Christie's Marple **8.00** The Booze Cruise **10.05** Law & Order: UK **12.05** Wire in the Blood **3.30** May the Best House Win **5.10** Rising Damp **5.35** ITV3 Nightscreen

ITV4
11.00 Tour de France Live. **4.45** Hat-Trick Heroes **5.00** Pawn Stars **6.00** Fierce **7.00** Tour de France Highlights **8.00** The Chase: Celebrity Special **9.00 Film:** The Deer Hunter (1978) **10.05** FYI Daily **10.10 Film:** The Deer Hunter (1978) **12.45** The Football Mavericks **1.45** Tour de France Highlights **2.40** ITV4 Nightscreen **3.00** Teleshopping

E4
11.00 The Goldbergs **12.30 Film:** Ferris Bueller's Day Off (1986) **2.35** The Big Bang Theory **8.00** The Crystal Maze: Celebrity Special **9.00 Film:** The Inbetweeners Movie (2011) **11.00 Film:** Underworld: Awakening (2012) **12.45** Rude Tube **1.50** 8 Out of 10 Cats **2.35** How I Met Your Mother **3.20** Hollyoaks

Film4
11.00 The Ladykillers (1955) **1.00** The Parent Trap (1961) **3.35** Moomins on the Riviera (2014) **5.10** Evolution (2001) **7.20** Airplane! (1980) **9.00** The Monuments Men (2014) **11.20** Monsters (2010) **1.10** Bullhead (2011) **3.50** Close

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PICK OF THE WEEK

FILM CHOICES

MONDAY
Stalking Elizabeth, Channel 5, 3.20pm
After the death of her daughter, a woman tries to regain a sense of normality by returning to teaching. However, she is assigned a mentor who develops an unsettling obsession for her. Drama, starring Jes Macallan, Aaron Douglas and Nic Bishop. (2014)

TUESDAY
Presumed Dead in Paradise, Channel 5, 3.15pm
A teenager is invited to spend a holiday on a Pacific island with her stepmother, and seemingly drowns. She survives her brush with death and swims to shore, only to discover her stepmother may have arranged the accident. As she investigates, she uncovers a sinister conspiracy with links to her dead father. Thriller, starring Malese Jow. (2013)

WEDNESDAY
In the Dark, Channel 5, 3.20pm
A woman is blinded following an accident in which her husband and child are killed. She employs a nurse as a carer, only to discover he has developed a dangerous obsession with her, which turns violent as she begins to regain her independence. Thriller, starring Elisabeth Rohm. (2013)

Begin Again, Friday, BBC1, 11.05pm

THURSDAY
George Best: All By Himself, BBC2, 11.15pm
Documentary telling the story of the reserved young football prodigy from Belfast who became a global superstar, but whose career was blighted by his battle with the pressures of fame. The film reveals how the player dubbed El Beatle helped Manchester United to win two league titles and the European Cup, but his extravagant lifestyle led to various problems, most notably alcoholism. (2016)

FRIDAY
Begin Again, BBC1, 11.05pm
A singer-songwriter is left cast adrift when her boyfriend leaves her after becoming a star. While performing in New York's East Village, she meets a record company executive whose career is in tatters, beginning a collaboration that turns both their lives around. Comedy drama, starring Keira Knightley and Mark Ruffalo. (2013)

It's no song and Dance for Charles in returning series

During an interview with the Metro in 2013, actor Charles Dance was asked about the public's perception of him as upper-class.

"It's a complete misconception – there's nothing aristocratic about me," he insisted.

"Some of it is down to how my face is put together. I'm not typecast to the extent that someone who has played the same character on a soap opera for 25 years would be."

But despite his protestations, the tall, sandy-haired actor doesn't deny he has made a career out of playing aristocratic and/or bureaucratic characters, mostly villains.

"I've earned a reasonably good living from it," he added.

Dance was born in Redditch, Worcestershire, in 1946 – the son of Eleanor (née Perks) and Walter Dance.

Growing up in Plymouth, he attended Widey Technical School for Boys in Crownhill and later attended The Leicester College of Arts (now known as De Montfort University), where he studied Graphic Design and Photography.

Dance developed a taste for the theatre by listening to two elderly actors who ran a pub in his Dover neighbourhood. He became a member of the Royal Shakespeare Company during the mid-to-late-1970s and was in many of their productions in London and Stratford.

Dance made his TV debut in 1974, in BBC mystery series Father Brown, but his big break came 10 years later when he played the role of Guy Perron in The Jewel in the Crown, an adaptation of Paul Scott's novels that also made stars of Geraldine James and Art Malik.

Since then, he has also starred in many other British TV dramas such as Edward the Seventh, Murder Rooms, Randall and Hopkirk, Rebecca, The Phantom of the Opera, Fingersmith and Bleak House (for which he received an Emmy nomination).

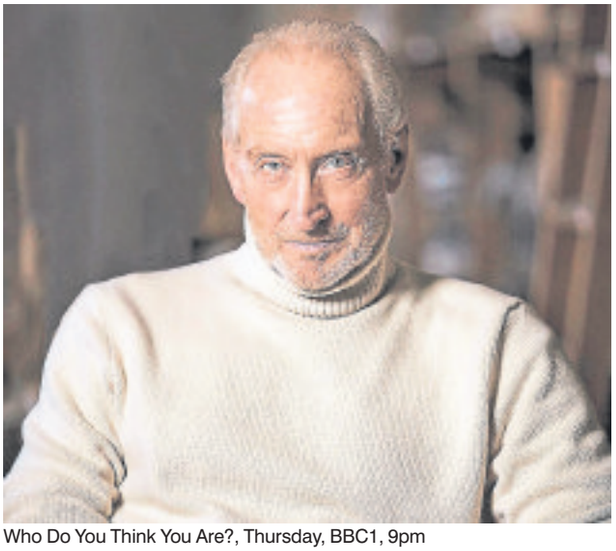
He also played Guy Spencer, the pro-Hitler propagandist, in Foyle's War, had an ongoing role as Dr Maltravers in ITV drama Trinity, made a guest appearance in BBC drama Merlin, and played a vainglorious version of himself in Jam & Jerusalem.

In 2010, he signed up to play Havelock Vetinari in Sky's adaptation of Terry Pratchett's Going Postal, before then securing what would be one of his most memorable roles – Tywin Lannister in HBO's hit fantasy series Game of Thrones.

As Dance says, the aristocratic world he tends to inhabit on screen is nothing like his own background, and we find out all about it as the new series of genealogy show Who Do You Think You Are? begins tonight.

Dance's mother Eleanor was an under-house parlour maid and he wants to find out if he comes from a long line of servants, or if he can uncover some grander origins.

The actor is also determined to learn about his engineer father.


Who Do You Think You Are?, Thursday, BBC1, 9pm

BEST OF THE REST

MONDAY
The Betrayed Girls
BBC1, 8.30pm
The 2012 trial of nine Asian men who were found guilty of the grooming, rape and sex trafficking of teenage girls in Rochdale shocked the nation – and five years on, the case continues to cause outrage. In May, the BBC broadcast Three Girls, a powerful drama which explored how the girls were let down by the authorities. Now this feature-length documentary hears from the real people at the heart of the story. It includes testimony from the victims as well as those who spoke out for them.

TUESDAY
Life Behind Bars: Visiting Hour
Channel 4, 9pm
The UK's prison population is an at all-time high, with over 86,000 people behind bars – which suggests that there's also a growing number of people visiting jailed loved ones. Cameras have been given unprecedented access to the visiting room at HMP Low Moss, one of the largest maximum-security prisons in Scotland, to see how the inmates doing hard time can try to reconnect with the lives they once had, even if it's just for 60 minutes. Among the stories featured are that of Gary and Charley, who aren't letting a lack of a release date stand in the way of their wedding planning, while Mike receives a visit from his aging father, who he realises might not live to see him released. The programme also hears from wardens and staff about the importance of visiting hour.

WEDNESDAY
Joanna Lumley's India
ITV, 9pm
Despite being most people's idea of the quintessential English rose, Joanna Lumley was actually born in India during the last days of the Raj and both sides of her family called the country home for several generations. In her latest three-part series she returns to the land of her birth for a deeply personal journey. In tonight's first episode, Joanna travels from the very south of the country all the way to the foothills of the Himalayas. In Madurai, she explores the dazzling Meenakshi temple which comes alive at night with religious celebration, before going for a hair-raising motorcycle ride on the winding road to the Valparai Plateau. Later, she has an encounter with a female elephant and her calf, before exploring the world's biggest film studio complex, Tollywood, and finishing up four hundred miles north of Calcutta, in Sikkim, where her grandfather was stationed for many years.

Joanna Lumley's India, Wednesday, ITV, 9pm

THURSDAY
Circus Kids: Our Secret World
Channel 5, 9pm
Some children don't have to run away to join the circus – they are born into it. This new three-part series ventures into a secretive and closely guarded world, steeped in centuries of tradition, to learn more about the lives of the young performers. It finds that while they may have freedoms that some other kids can only dream of, they also live at a demanding pace during the gruelling circus season, which runs from February to November. In this first episode, we meet 17-year-old stunt ride Peter, who is the son of a circus owner and struggles to understand why anyone would want to live in just one place, and twins Esmerelda and Scarlett, who are already the little stars of the big top at the age of just two.

FRIDAY
The Secret World of Posh Pets
ITV, 8pm
In Doncaster, South Yorkshire, Bryn sets out to breed over £2million-worth of falcons to sell to the super-rich Sheikhs and princes of the Middle East. High-earning city boy Zane sets out on a Bengal cat-breeding adventure, producing £1,000 kittens then reinvesting the proceeds in a super-rare domestic black panther. Meanwhile, having spent £4,000 on catering, dresses and miniature horse drawn carriages, Debbie can witness her Chihuahuas Honey and Joey tying the knot, in what is surely the doggy wedding of the year.

Peter Kay's Comedy Shuffle
BBC1, 9pm
The comedian, actor, writer and director recalls an ambitious nationwide challenge for Comic Relief and discusses his involvement in an armed raid with chat show supremo Michael Parkinson.

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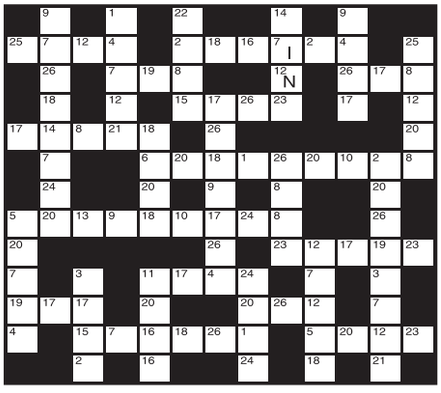
BRAIN GYM

No.436

Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



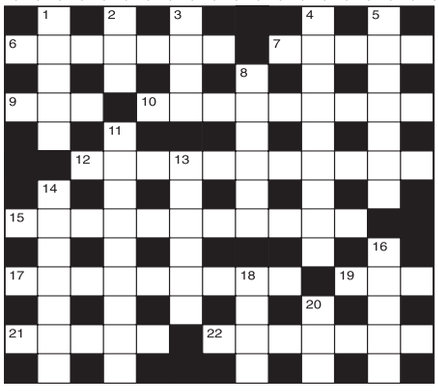
1	14
2	15
3	16
4	17
5	18
6	19
7 I	20
8	21
9	22
10	23
11	24
12 N	25
13	26

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

1 T	2 C	3 B	4 M	5 Y	6 R	7 S	8 P	9 L	10 D	11 G	12 E	13 X
14 O	15 Z	16 K	17 I	18 H	19 J	20 A	21 F	22 Q	23 W	24 N	25 U	26 V

Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.



Cryptic Clues:

Across

6. New cadet or old soldier (7)
7. A patch put on a cuff, perhaps (5)
9. Company that was floated to avoid liquidation (3)
10. Nice trait, but somehow puzzling (9)
12. Doing very well at a job at the Mint? (6,5)
15. This side gains nothing but pleasure from its activities (7,4)
17. Having the look of a powerful flyer (5-4)
19. Come to a conclusion and object (3)
21. Order a form (5)
22. Distributors can't when supplies do (4,3)

Down

1. Assumes it's durable (5)
2. Water that is about a hundred degrees lower than steam (3)
3. It may be caused by a pin lying around (4)
4. Those on this roll may make their mark (9)
5. Relatives unite as in a crisis (7)
8. A girth properly adjusted (6)
11. False description of atheists? (9)
13. Accustoms user in new process (6)
14. Can I provide a friendly solution? (7)
16. Not appropriate, being excessive (5)
18. Big lake up country (4)
20. Father consumes eastern vegetable (3)

Quick Clues:

Across

6. Lead (7)
7. Moist (5)
9. Breach (3)
10. Lying down (9)
12. Deceive (11)
15. Piercing (11)
17. Antagonist (9)
19. Aged (3)
21. Lure (5)
22. Versus (7)

Down

1. Fracture (5)
2. Perform (3)
3. Inactive (4)
4. Riotous (9)
5. Worthiness (7)
8. Apex (6)
11. Course (9)
13. Powerful (6)
14. Rally (7)
16. Embrace (5)
18. Brink (4)
20. Strike (3)

Sudoku

1			3		9			4
				5				
6		9			8	5		3
	2			9			8	
4			5		2			6
	8			7	3		1	
5		2				3		1
				2				
8	9		6		1		5	2

Fill in the grid above so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

7	9	3	2	4	8	6	1	5
2	8	1	7	6	5	4	9	3
5	6	4	3	1	9	8	7	2
9	1	6	5	3	7	2	8	4
8	4	5	9	2	1	3	6	7
3	7	2	6	8	4	9	5	1
1	2	7	8	9	3	5	4	6
6	5	8	4	7	2	1	3	9
4	3	9	1	5	6	7	2	8

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS:
CRYPTIC - Across: 7 Flight of steps; 8 Officers; 9 Ions; 10 Hunger; 12 Overdo; 14 Ascend; 16 Thrash; 18 Star; 20 Snapshot; 22 Have a good mind. Down: 1 All fours; 2 Egging; 3 Stye; 4 Offshoot; 5 Strike; 6 Open; 11 Redesign; 13 Discount; 15 Earner; 17 Resume; 19 Tear; 21 Amok.
QUICK - Across: 7 Recrimination; 8 Distance; 9 Easy; 10 Lament; 12 Indeed; 14 Reform; 16 Relate; 18 Chic; 20 Taciturn; 22 Perpendicular. Down: 1 Dedicate; 2 Writhe; 3 Omen; 4 Inferior; 5 Attend; 6 Toss; 11 Tempting; 13 External; 15 Occupy; 17 Let out; 19 Heed; 21 Crib.

Quiz

1. Who wrote the novel The History of Tom Jones?
2. Of what is encephalitis the inflammation?
3. Which veteran TV cook died in December 1994?
4. Which country's parliament is the Folketing?
5. What was a highwayman without a horse called?
6. Of which country is Cape Byron the eastern extremity?
7. What do we call a cloud of gas and dust in space?
8. Which king was the intended victim of the Gunpowder Plot?
9. Who wrote the play Look Back in Anger?
10. Which Highland town became a city in 2001?

Last week's solutions:

Quiz: 1 Electrical capacitance; 2 Enid Blyton; 3 Light-Emitting Diode; 4 Liighthouse of Alexandria; 5 Vientiane; 6 Indian; 7 Hedgehog; 8 Signs and symbols; 9 Rabies; 10 Henrik Ibsen.

Niner: LATHERING

Niner

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters.

42315 gives an element,
619658 gives a second element,
6157 gives atoms.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

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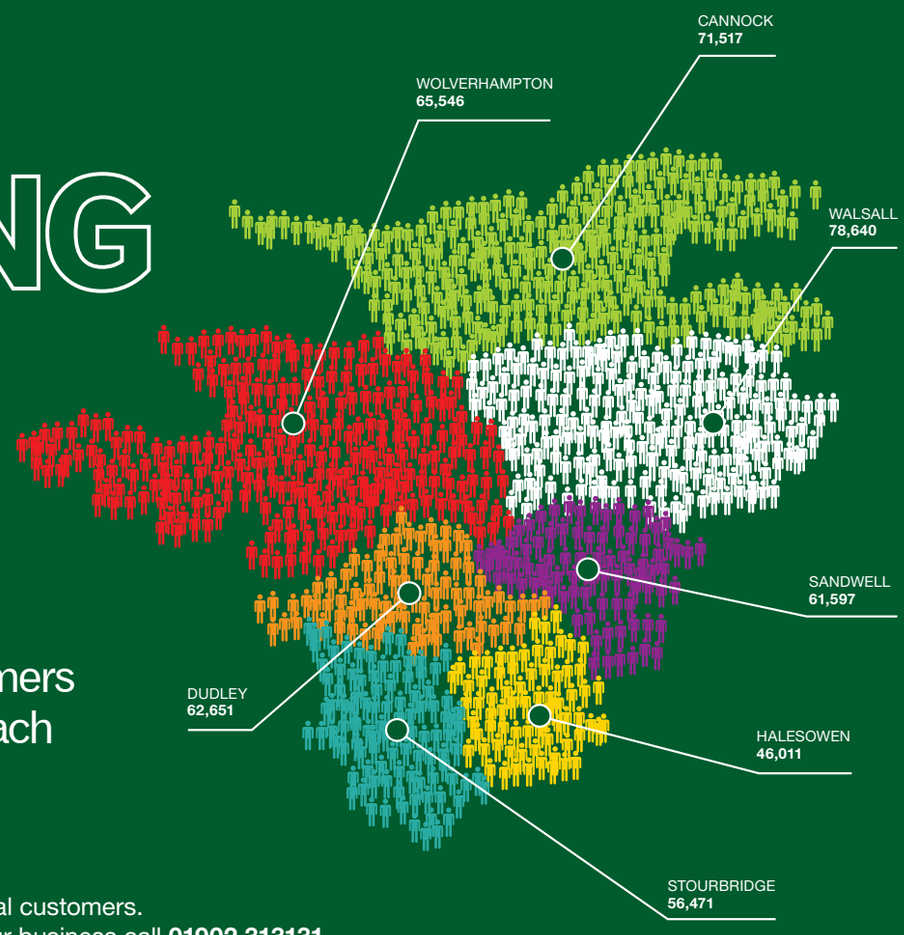

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SOURCE: JICREG 31.10.2016

Trying our best to carry on cruising

One of the lovely canalside cottages

Kevin Yarwood, with wife Amanda and Andy Cooper

Captain of his Shipp – Mark at the tiller

"It's an experience like no other," says Kevin Yarwood of Anglo Welsh.

And with more than 18,000 customers a year across 11 sites nationwide, who could argue?

Yes, there's nothing quite like messing about on the water. Or in our case bumbling.

From Silsden in West Yorkshire to Monkton Combe in Somerset and Bradford on Avon, Wiltshire, Anglo Welsh has for hire more than 160 boats, available for just a day, or for longer periods of time, enabling people to enjoy the country at their leisure – and there are so many miles of canal to explore.

For novices such as ourselves, Anglo Welsh help choose a route to suit and show the ropes, quite literally in our case as the ropes came in very handy.

Kevin operates from the Great Haywood base, which he has turned into a mini family affair, alongside his wife, son, sister and brother. This, together with more than 25 years of experience, allows Kevin to offer a more personal service.

"I first started out doing a Saturday job and I have been here ever since," he said. It was Kevin who took us on the first stage of our journey, showing us around the boat and then giving us our instructions.

We were 'let loose' on Abi – all day boats are named after the staff members, their partners or children.

There are kitchen facilities on board all boats and wi-fi on the holiday fleet.

There were just two of us, but at just £99 for a day's hire, a party booking would be ideal, particularly as it means taking it in turns at the helm.

For ourselves, however, it became apparent that if there was a driving test for narrowboats we would have failed. We were taken by Kevin along the Trent & Mersey to the first of the locks along the route.

Tuition was given and other relevant instructions passed on. After the safe handover, we were then left to fend for ourselves. So what could possibly go wrong? I am a man after all. And with a nautical surname. Surely I could do it! We were only travelling at four miles an hour when all is said and done.

PASSING

The reality was much different. Cruising? Not really. All at sea would be a more apt description.

While other more seasoned boaters were effortlessly passing it was not so easy for us. In fact, our navigational skills, or rather the lack of them, had us turning the air bluer than the boat we were in.

Kevin had told us that to steer left, the tiller had to be moved to the right and vice versa. But the brain had trouble computing this information, which is where the ropes proved useful. Surroundings were tranquil, we passed the back of Shugborough, heading towards Colwich and then the Wolseley Bridge area. It was pleasant to moor up and have a bite to eat and watch the experts pass on their way.

There is always something to see and do along the way, with the Wolseley Arms a particularly popular stop-off point. As for the boating fraternity, one could not really wish to meet a friendlier bunch, with a cheery wave as they passed and help as we hit trouble.

But Kevin's correct – there really is nothing like it.

Get it right and you will have the best of days, weekends or weeks you could ever imagine.

From Great Haywood, one could cruise along the Trent & Mersey or indeed the Staffordshire & Worcestershire canals. Day hire starts at £99 with a limit of 10 per boat.

For details visit www.anglowelsh.co.uk or call 01889 881711.

MARK SHIPP

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^Based on 2017 adult admission prices.

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PROPERTY

YOUR WEEKLY GUIDE TO HOME BUYING AND LETTING

Well presented and extended house lies on a popular estate

This very well presented and extended four-bedroomed detached house in Hartland Road, Tipton, lies on a popular estate, a short distance from local schools, amenities and travel links.

It is for sale through Skitts at £240,000.

With the accommodation having double glazing and gas central heating, the property really needs to be viewed to be fully appreciated. The accommodation briefly comprises of a lounge, a dining room, a conservatory, a kitchen/diner, a utility, a downstairs shower room, four bedrooms, a bathroom, a garage, a driveway and a rear garden.

This property has a large driveway to the front.

In more detail the entrance hall has stairs off to the first floor landing.

The downstairs shower room/WC is positioned to the front of the home.

Also positioned to the front is the dining room.

The lounge has sliding doors to the conservatory, which in turn has doors to the rear garden.

With a window to the rear, the kitchen/diner has a range of wall and base units, a door to a storage cupboard and doors into the utility room, which has a further sink and a door to the garden.

Upstairs, bedroom one is positioned to the front of the property. Bedrooms two and three are to the rear and bedroom four lies to the front.

The bathroom has a window to the rear, a bath, wash hand basin and low level WC.

The rear garden is of a good size, having a lawn and a patio area.

Skitts Estate Agents began in 1979 as a partnership and has proudly remained so for over 37 years.

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TIPTON £240,000

TO VIEW THIS PROPERTY

AGENT: Skitts
TEL: 0121 520 2255
EMAIL: greatbridge@skitts.net

KEY FEATURES

- Extended detached
- 4 bedrooms
- Popular estate
- Close to schools & amenities
- Ideal for commuting

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Bobby Singh
Co-Founder
bobbysinghesq

Bungalow in need of general updating

OLDBURY
£220,000

Surrounded by established and mature gardens, 133 New Birmingham Road, Oldbury, is a detached two bedroomed bungalow in need of general updating and decoration.

Having good sized accommodation, it is for sale through Tom Giles at £220,000 with no chain.

In a good position for commuting, it has an established and mature tiered garden with footpath approach and crazy paved patio to front.

It has a vestibule to an entrance hall, front and rear sitting rooms, a kitchen with appliances, a side lobby, cloakroom/WC, two bedrooms and a bathroom, detached garage and a driveway and gardens.

For further information, or to book that all important viewing, contact the agents on 0121 522 6171.

Two bed semi ideal for first time buyers and families

WEST BROMWICH
£119,950 <<<

A lovely two-bedroomed semi-detached property, 39 York Crescent, West Bromwich is both ideal for first time buyers and families.

It is for sale through Love Your Postcode at £119,950.

A modern property with double glazing and central heating, it lies on a peaceful estate it has an entrance hall, ground floor WC, a long kitchen with ample work surfaces and space for utilities.

From the kitchen you have access to the rear garden.

The main reception area is also a charming, warm and cosy space with neutral decor.

Both bedrooms are double and fully carpeted and the bathroom has a combined shower and bath tub.

Further features of this home include a driveway and off road parking. Call 0800 862 0870.

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OLDBURY
HARBORNE ROAD £365,000

4 | 2 | 1

Extended traditional semi-detached house warranting full internal inspection with double glazing, gas central heating, built-in appliances in kitchen, built-in bedroom furniture in two bedrooms and private established rear garden. EPC Rating E

TIVIDALE
PINE ROAD £119,950

3 | 2 | 1

The opportunity to acquire a traditional semi-detached house in need of improvement but OFFERING AN IDEAL INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITY with gas central heating, double glazing (where specified) garage, off-road parking and private rear garden. EPC Rating E

OLDBURY
TITFORD ROAD £305,000

3 | 3 | 1

An opportunity to aquire a mixed Residential and Commercial premises comprising of detached family residence known as 'Providence Cottage' together with yard, detached stores/offices and a garage workshop. Central heating, double glazing. EPC Rating E

OLDBURY
BIRMINGHAM STREET £250,000

0 | 0 | 0

A well established Newsagents Business for sale including Freehold Property comprising retail shop area, cellar, staircase to first floor with kitchen, W.C. and two rooms with further accommodation above 41 Birmingham Street which has two rooms, vehicle access to rear of property. EPC Rating F

TIVIDALE
LOWER CITY ROAD £229,950

3 | 2 | 1

A detached property situated in one of the areas most sought after locations with potential to extend to side and rear subject to Planning and Building Consent. In need of some improvement. EPC Rating E

TIVIDALE
NEW BIRMINGHAM ROAD £220,000

2 | 2 | 1

A detached bungalow in need of general updating and decoration but offering good sized accommodation. Central heating, double glazing, established gardens to front and rear, double garage and off-road parking. EPC Rating F

OLDBURY
PARK AVENUE £189,950

3 | 2 | 1

Traditional semi-detached house WARRANTING FULL INTERNAL INSPECTION with double glazing, gas central heating, solar panels, new guttering and fascias, private established rear garden with ornamental fishpond EPC Rating D

TIVIDALE
WEST AVENUE £144,950

3 | 1 | 1

MUST BE SEEN! Ideal first time purchase. Semi-detached house offering good sized family accommodation situated in a popular and convenient residential location and overlooking Oakham Primary School. Double glazing and gas central heating. EPC Rating C

OLDBURY
EAST AVENUE £119,950

3 | 1 | 1

Terraced house in need of general updating offering ideal first time purchase or investment opportunity with the benefit of central heating, double glazing, garden to front, parking at rear and low maintenance garden. EPC Rating D

SMETHWICK
CEMETERY ROAD £119,950

3 | 2 | 1

Terraced house situated in a popular and convenient residential location - in need of updating and improvement. Double glazing and gas central heating (where specified) foregarden to front and garden at rear. EPC Rating D

ROWLEY REGIS
WINCHESTER CLOSE £65,000

2 | 1 | 1

A recently re-decorated and well-presented second floor flat within popular location. Communcal Parking. EPC Rating E.

WEST BROMWICH
HOLLYHEDGE ROAD Price on Application

A lucrative Hair Dressing Salon Business including good will fixtures and fittings plus stock at valuation in a prominent location comprising of salon area, stores, W.C. and kitchen are with access to rear of premises and garage. EPC Rating F. SALE OF BUSINESS ONLY.

OLDBURY
BRISTNALL HALL ROAD £625 pcm

3 | 2 | 1

Spacious semi-detached house within catchment area for sought after infant, junior and senior schools, central heating, double glazing, off-road parking, large garden to rear. Deposit: £900 EPC Rating E.

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Starting at 11:00am

AUCTION

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16 Sabell Road, Smethwick
2 Bed Mid Terraced House
Guide: £40,000 plus

7 Wynn-Griffith Drive, Tipton
2 Bed Semi-Detached House
Guide: £65,000 plus

102 Eva Road, Birmingham
2 Bed Mid-Terraced House
Guide: £24,000 - £29,000

38 The Uplands, Smethwick
3 Bed Mid-Terraced House
Guide: £50,000 plus

48 Dora Road, Handsworth
2 Bed Mid-Terraced House
Guide: £40,000 plus

3 Ash Drive, West Bromwich
3 Bed Semi-Detached House
Guide: £50,000 plus

15 Wheatley St, West Bromwich
3 Bed Mid-Terraced House
Guide: £49,000 plus

10 Gospel Oak Road, Tipton
4 Bed End-Terraced House
Guide: £39,000 - £44,000

Flat 16, 46-48 Handsworth Wood Road, Handsworth Wood
Second Floor 1 Bed Apartment
Guide: £10,000 plus

184 Park Lane West, Tipton
2 Bed Investment Property
Current Gross Income: £5,400 pa.
Guide: £38,000 - £42,000

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SDL AUCTIONS

BIGWOOD

AUCTION

6th July 2017

at Aston Villa Football Ground

Viewings: 1/7/17 @ 9:45, 3/7/17 @ 16:45 & 5/7/17 @ 9:45

54 Charnwood Road, Great Barr

A 3 bedroom semi detached house, standing back from the road behind a driveway foregarden.
The property benefits from having gas fired central heating and majority double glazing.

Ground Floor: Hall with understairs cupboard, two reception rooms, kitchen, utility.
First Floor: Landing, three bedrooms, bathroom/WC.
Outside: Gardens, driveway parking and rear garage.

Guide: £50,000 plus

Viewings: 1/7/17 @ 15:45, 3/7/17 @ 10:45 & 5/7/17 @ 15:45

3 Ash Drive, West Bromwich

A 3 bedroom semi detached house, standing back from the road behind a blocked paved drivewayforegarden.
The property benefits from having gas fired central heating and
majority double glazing.

Ground Floor: Porch, reception room, dining kitchen, conservatory.
First Floor: Landing, three bedrooms, bathroom/WC with shower.
Outside: Gardens, driveway parking and rear garage.

Guide: £50,000 plus

View: 1/7 @ 16:45, 3/7 @ 9:45 & 5/7 @ 16:45

20 Hagley Road West, Bearwood
Semi detached converted into two self-contained flats
Guide: £50,000 plus

View: 1/7 @ 13:45, 3/7 @ 12:45 & 5/7 @ 13:45

14 Littleworth Avenue, Dudley
3 bed semi detached property
Guide: £49,000-£54,000

View: 1/7 @ 15:00, 3/7 @ 11.30 & 5/7 @ 15.00

76 Highfield Road, Tipton
2 bed semi detached house
Guide: £29,000-£34,000

View: 1/7 @ 12:15, 3/7 @ 14:15 & 5/7 @ 12:15

5 Beaconsfield Drive, Wolverhampton
2 bed detached bungalow
Guide: £49,000-£54,000

View: 1/7 @ 14:30, 3/7 @ 12:00 & 5/7 @ 14:30

10 Gospel Oak Road, Tipton
4 bed end terraced house
Guide: £39,000-£44,000

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HAVE YOU CHECKED your advertisement today? We would respectfully remind advertisers that it is their responsibility to inform the publishers of any mistakes or inaccuracies on the first day of publication.

blinds

MADE-TO-MEASURE BLINDS SALE
UP TO 50% OFF*
MEASURING & FITTING INCLUDED
BLINDS | CURTAINS | SHUTTERS | CARPETS

HILLARYS
TO BOOK A FREE HOME APPOINTMENT WITH YOUR LOCAL ADVISOR CALL 0800 916 6563 OR VISIT hillarys.co.uk
*Ts & Cs apply

gardening services

Landywood Tree & Landscaping Services
All garden work, tree felling/lopping, pruning, hedges trimmed, turf, patios, fencing, block-paving etc.
www.landywoodlandscaping.co.uk
01922 898 710 / 07973 177 976

J&B TREE CARE Landscape and Jetwashing Services. All Pesticide /Fungicide work. Free fixed quotes: 07786 166856/ 01922 449268.

gas fitting

GAS SERVICES
- Boilers • Cookers
- Fires • Gas Checks
- Landlord Certificates
- Gas Leaks Traced

Fitted, Serviced and Repaired
Same Day Service
Free Quotes
DISCOUNTS FOR OAPs
Call: 01902 366855/ 07761 973975

READERS ARE ADVISED To check that anyone carrying out any Gas work is Gas Safe Registered. It is an offence under the Gas Safety (Installation and Use) Regulations 1998 to carry out gas work in the UK without being on the Gas Safe Register.

gates

ALL METAL GATES,RAILINGS, etc. Free quotes, also repairs & fitting. 07903 500642 24 hours.

DARLASTON FABS 30 years exp in supplying/ fitting gates and railings. Free quotes: 07497 667752.

handyman services

YOUR LOCAL HANDYMAN
FREE QUOTES
All work guaranteed, Most trades covered, References available on request. No job too big or too small!
CALL MIKE: 07947 621047 0121 6010479

CHOOSE CLASSIFIED

I average around 1 to 2 phone calls a day from customers as a direct result of my Classified Advertising. I am very happy with my response levels.
Mr Causer.

For great business results call **01902 319 191**
ClassifiedAds Brought to you by Express & Star

HANDY MAN - Most trades, plumbing, heating, gardening & decorating. Gutter clean no ladders, free quotes. 07850 559315.

LOCK & CARPENTRY Plumbing, Small job specialist. Free quotes 01902 683100 or 07934 460864.

house clearances

ABSOLUTELY ANYTHING CLEARED
FULL OR PART, GARAGES AND SHEDS RUBBISH REMOVED WASTE LICENCE
01384 486456 / 07711661135

A1 HOUSE CLEARANCE
Full, part and single rubbish removed.
Garage and sheds cleared. Leather 3 piece suites and leather chesterfields wanted.
01922 492007

A1 HOUSE CLEARANCE
Full, part and single rubbish removed.
Garage and sheds cleared. Leather 3 piece suites and leather chesterfields wanted.
01922 492007

ALL ROUND CLEARANCE
Professional family run business
House clearances full or part, also garages, sheds etc.
Telephone Kev
07794 912844

A ABSOLUTE BEST cash price paid for house clearances and bereavements. Also removals undertaken. 07852 172641 / 07710 360327

kitchen fitters

THE KITCHEN FITTER Over 20 years experience. Call 07881 654757 or 01543 373233.

lock services

LOCKRITE local father and daughter locksmiths, lock-outs, broken locks, UPVC specialist, 24hr service. 01922 780078.

painters / decorators

C&D DECORATING City & Guilds / Wallpapering. Tiling and Flooring. Free quotes, call 07973 286288.

LADY DECORATOR, full house or one wall - to customer requirments. For a quote call 07522 643706.

plans prepared

ADAM DESIGN, Building Plans. Drawn and submitted to council. Tel: 01902 620200 / 07841 654037. Email: adamdesign@sky.com

plastering

MINT PLASTERING
For the very best in plastering and rendering, full rooms inc materials from 110. Halls, stairs and landings from 200
30 years experience.
Free quotes. All work guaranteed
01922 606503 / 07519 694516

M & S PLASTERING & BUILDING Services. Home/Garden Improvements.Mark or Sara: 07741 770897

MINT PLASTERING & rendering 30 yrs exp. All work guaranteed. 01922 606503 or 07519 694516.

STEVES PLASTERING SERVICE Clean and Reliable, All Work Undertaken, All Areas. Call 0121 567 5919 / 07977 262943.

plumbing & heating

ALL PLUMBING WORK UNDERTAKEN
No job too small or large.
Call Will for a free quote
07521 411108

A.A HEATING & PLUMBING All gas work. Install/ Service/ Repair. 01922 660410 or 07540 950588.

PLUMBING WORK UNDERTAKEN No job too small or large. Call Will for a free quote on: 07521 411108.

removals

KT HOUSE REMOVALS
12 years experience.
SINGLE ITEMS TO FULL LOADS. LOCAL OR DISTANCE. FULLY INSURED.
Free Quotes - Call Ric on:
07771 727119

CALL DEAN NOW: For all your Removal needs. 07429 453209/ 01902 830870 / 01384 940260.

KC REMOVALS We beat any quote, full or part loads, all areas. Anything considered. Call on 07867 862227.

KT REMOVALS 12 yrs exp. Single items to full load removals. Local / distance. Call Ric: 07771 727119.

rubbish removal

LETS TALK RUBBISH No Skips Needed.Load/Remove any Waste, House Clearance. 07969 628382

skip hire

EURO SKIP HIRE
We supply Mini, Midi and builders skips.
CALL NOW
for a FREE quote on:
01922 615 842 or 07966 633380

A absolute affordable skip
RUSSELL SKIPS
Mini, midi skips
Prompt delivery / collection
(0121) 520 3388 / 07721 387990

MT SKIPS & GRAB HIRE
Save £££s
All size skips and all areas covered
Same day delivery faster than a phone call!!!
Open 7 days a week
07920 88 57 74 or 01384 24 09 56
SCRAP CARS REMOVED FOR FREE

GOLDSHILL SKIPS
Bring your own waste cheaper than skips. General, Green, Wood waste any size vehicle. Phone for prices:
0121 557 3346

AAA SKIP HIRE All sizes available, competitive prices. Call: 01922 711411(option 2) or 07592 940556.

STONES SKIP HIRE 0121 557 1480 / 07886 721875 www.stoneskiphire.co.uk

upholstery

MR B'S UPHOLSTERY
RE- UPHOLSTERING OF SOFA'S, DINING FURNITURE, CARAVANS, CAR RETRIMS AND MORE.
www.mrbsupholstery.co.uk
01543 500677 07738 851601

4 Pets & Animals

equestrian corner

ALL READERS are advised to check if Horses, Donkeys or Ponies have the required Passport information.

guns & dogs

NOTICE TO ADVERTISERS Advertisers must ensure that they meet all necessary legal requirements for owning and using guns.

pets corner

NOTICE TO READERS Please be aware that when purchasing a puppy there are some simple guidelines you can follow to ensure that you are not purchasing from a Puppy Farmer:
1. Try to ensure you visit the puppy whilst it is still with it's Mother.
2. Do not arrange to collect a puppy from any other location than that of the breeder.
3. Ensure that you are given any KC documentation, if pedigree.
Whilst Midland News Association publications take great care to avoid publication of advertisements from Puppy Farmers we cannot accept any liability should readers purchase from this kind of establishment.

5 Business & Farming

business opportunities

READERS are recommended to take appropriate professional advice before entering into any obligations.

business directory

commercial premises

UNITS AND OFFICE SPACE to let in Oldbury, West Bromwich and Walsall. Easy Terms. Ashmore Properties 0121 520 5318.

6 Property

overseas property

NOTICE TO READERS Readers are advised to seek independent legal advice before entering into any financial commitments.

properties wanted

FAST CASH FOR YOUR PROPERTY™
- Repossessions stopped
- Houses bought in any condition
- Legal fees paid
- Probate Estates Welcome
- Mortgages / Loans Cleared

CASH PAID WITHIN DAYS!
FREEPHONE 0800 121 6007 OAKWOOD HOMEBUYERS
Friendly, local company here to help you 7 days a week. Est. 10 years.
www.oakwood-homebuyers.com

Home Cash Buyer
Sell today, sign today, complete when u wish
£££ RENT BACK OPTIONS £££
Houses / Land Required
Ring Paul 24/7 Local 07870 341 089
Sandwell area: Call 0121 696 4154
Walsall & Cannock area: Call 01922 432049
Wolverhampton: Call 01902 489901
www.homecashbuyer.co.uk

CHOOSE CLASSIFIED
"I am really pleased with the response I get from my Classified Advertising!"
Paul Westwood - Home Cash Buyer
For great business results call 01902 319 191
ClassifiedAds Brought to you by Express & Star

Need to sell your home fast?
We can help you make a fresh start
With solutions to suit ...
you can clear your debts and make a fresh start
Purchase Agreed Within 7 DAYS
ALL CIRCUMSTANCES CONSIDERED
COMPLETE ON DATE TO SUIT
FREE VALUATION AND LEGALS
FREE FRIENDLY ADVICE
LOCAL COMPANY

MARION | PROPERTY SOLUTIONS
WHY NOT CALL US TODAY
for an informal, friendly and confidential chat?
0121 405 0767
*Terms and Conditions apply
OUR LINES ARE OPEN 24/7

I BUY HOUSES
- Expired listings
- Fire damaged houses
- Debt ridden houses
- Vacant houses
- Smelly houses
- Unwanted houses

Any place, any area, any condition. If you don't want it, I do!
Call Amy: 07511 299 010

accommodation to let

J9 Accommodation
NO DEPOSIT
★MOVE IN TODAY★
Studios *from* £90pw*
Rooms *from* £65pw*
*Includes Most Bills
CHECK WEBSITE FOR LIVE LIST
Midland Landlord Accreditation Scheme
01902 213121
J9accommodation.com

WEST BROMWICH
Brand New Studios and 1 Bed Flats available
NO DEPOSIT
DSS 35+ Welcome. Move in Immediately
07967 016425

FOR RENT
20 x 1 bedroom self contained flats available.
Walsall, West Midlands, £450pcm.
Also 3 Studio apartments at £400pcm.
One months rent up front.
Please contact Mr Hill 07500 501501.

AVAILABLE FOR RENT IN HOSPITAL STREET, WALSALL
20 x 1 bedroom self contained flats £450PCM.
3 Studio apartments at £400PCM.
One months rent up front.
Please contact Mr Hill on 07500 501501

NOTICE TO READERS It is an offence under the Accommodation Agencies Act 1953, for an Agency to charge a fee simply for the registration of your requirements and/or supplying particulars of premises to let.

7 Jobs

building & construction

AMP SCAFOLDING 7.5 Tonne scaffold/Labourer drivers required. Also carded scaffolding Gangs Call 0121 580 0389

KITCHEN & BATHROOM FITTERS required. Experienced in all aspects of installation with attention to detail. Excellent rate of pay for right applicant. Dudley / Tipton area. Call 07593 922638.

dentistry

DENTAL NURSES AND RECEPTIONISTS required, GDC registered Flexible hours F/T, P/T available7 days per week (8am - 11pm) Wage 12K -20 k - negotiable, overtime & bonuses Immediate starts email CV to info@scottarmsdentalpractice.com

full time - general

WOOD GREEN ACADEMY
Wood Green Road, Wednesbury, West Midlands, WS10 9QU
Tel 0121 5564131 • www.woodgreenacademy.co.uk

Vacancy: Learning Support Assistant

SALARY SCALE: Band B (£15,375 - £16,491) Pro. Rata.
HOURS: 27.5 hours per week, term time only

We are seeking to appoint a Learning Support Assistant whose principle role is to provide in classroom support to our students, under the direction of the teacher. The role involves providing both academic support and welfare support. This is a fixed term post, starting on September 1st 2017 and ending July 20th 2018. We are particularly interested in applicants who have the ability to support students in Maths, English and Science at Key Stage 4.

The successful candidate should be able to offer excellent communication skills along with experience of working with young people. They must have at least a grade C in English, Maths and Science at GCSE.

The job description and person specification provide a detailed description of the role.

Please complete a supporting letter of no more than two sides of A4 stating your suitability for the post.

Completed application forms and supporting letters should be sent as hard copies by post to:

Application for Learning Support Manager
Mr James Topham, Headteacher, Wood Green Academy, Wood Green Rd, Wednesbury, West Midlands, WS10 9QU
Or emailed to Admin@woodgreenaacademy.co.uk and marked in the subject line, "Application for Learning Support Assistant".
Closing date: 9am Tuesday 4th July 2017.
Interviews: TBC.
This school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.

RED ROOSTER LIFTING
Red Rooster is an industry leader in the provision of lifting and load measuring solutions.
Due to further growth we have an immediate requirement for the following:
HOIST ENGINEER / MECHANICAL FITTER
The successful candidate for the above position will
- Be directly engaged in the manufacture and repair of air hoists and electric hoists therefore experience in pneumatic or hydraulics would be beneficial but not essential as training will be given
- Possess good electrical knowledge
- Experience in repair of hoists, cranes and other lifting equipment would be an advantage
- Be able to work as part of a team
- Be able to work with a minimum of supervision

The remuneration for this position will be commensurate with the experience and qualifications of the successful applicant and a profit related bonus scheme is in operation. This vacancy is permanent and based at our premises in West Bromwich.

To apply send your C.V. to:
Andy Palmer, Red Rooster Lifting Limited
Unit 26 Kelvin Way Trading Estate
Kelvin Way, West Bromwich B70 7TW
Email: apalmer@redroosterlifting.com

SBBS Building & Scaffolding Ltd
SBBS Building & Scaffolding Ltd, Wednesbury require
SCAFFOLDERS, SCAFFOLDING TRAINEES & LABOURERS
Training will be provided.
You must be over 18.
Please Tel: Joe on 07918 742851.
Email: john@sbbs-site.co.uk

courses

BIRMINGHAM: 25-26 SEPT. & 30 NOV-1 DEC.
WOLVERHAMPTON: 16-17 SEPT.
also **STOKE ON TRENT:** 2-3 SEPT. and **TELFORD:** 23-24 OCT.
Learn how to take blood
TRAIN AS A **PHLEBOTOMIST**
awarding a Nationally Recognised
Certificate in Phlebotomy

- Two day course
- First step onto Allied Healthcare Career Path
- Accredited - Advanced
- No previous experience needed
- Recognised Qualification

For more info. or to book online:
www.geopace.com
Geopace Training
ocn ACCREDITED
HIGH DEMAND IN: Hospitals - GP Surgeries - Clinics - Private Sector - Community

hair & beauty

GENTS HAIRDRESSER
(Barber required)
Quinton
Telephone
0121 422 4104 / 01384 396097

nursing & carers

SUPPORT WORKERS required Please telephone 0121 552 5141

part time - general

EXPERIENCED OPTICAL ASSISTANT required, 2 days pw, temp contract, good customer service and retail knowledge required, to start a.s.a.p. Call 0121 559 1054.

8 Motoring

cars over £1500

HAVE YOU CHECKED your advertisement today? We would respectfully remind advertisers that it is their responsibility to inform the publishers of any mistakes or inaccuracies on the first day of publication.

HONDA CIVIC S
2005, silver, 5 months MoT. One mature lady owner from new. Always main dealer serviced, complete history. 1st to see and try will buy.
£1,600 ono.
07792 404365.

RENAULT SCENIC PRIVILEGE
2007, 73,000 miles, gold, half leather, ABS, electric windows, electric mirrors, air con, FSH, alarm, MoT Beautiful condition.
£1,695 ono.
01902 897680.

FreeAds
IT'S FREE, IT'S EASY
For items upto £250.
Online at www.expressandstar.com/bookanad

ClassifiedAds

cars under £1500

BMW 520i SALOON
Manual gear change, dark blue inside, superbly maintained, 2002 reg.
Part exchanged considered.
£1,150 ono.
01952 811019. 07929 957102.

MUST BE SEEN

FIAT PUNTO 1.2 ACTIVE
2005.
E/W. Alarm.
4 months MoT.
92,000 miles.
Very economical.
Very clean inside and out.
£700 ono.
07495 758836.
Tipton area.

FORD FUSION 2
16v, 1.4, hatchback, black, 12 months MoT, good runner, excellent condition for year, low mileage, recently had new clutch and battery,
Bargain £550 ono.
07883 107801.

FORD KA STUDIO
2007, 1.3, 3 door, 89,000 Miles, black, long MOT, new clutch, new brakes, new tyres, 2 lady owners from new, ideal first car
£825
01922 414563.

FORD MONDEO
02 reg, 2.0 petrol automatic, full MoT,
numerous things done on car, including inlet manifold (common fault) rear sub frame and brake pipes beneath, rear callipers and wheel bearings, front suspension arms, hand break cable, plus more.
blue, same owner from last 10 years, well looked after.
£600.
07533 497669.

BARGAIN

RENAULT CLIO DYNAMIQUE
2003, red,
104,772 miles, petrol,
5 months MoT, 3-dr,
good condition.
£450.
07940 211095.

ROVER 25
Spares or repair, 2004, 100,000 miles, blue, abs, electric windows, air bag, electric mirrors, air con, fsh, alarm, long MoT.
£300 ono.
07818 830279.

BARGAIN

ROVER 416 SLi
M Reg., 4dr,
petrol, dark grey,
low mileage.
No MoT,
£200. o.n.o.
01922 744662.

BARGAIN

VAUXHALL CORSA 1.4 SXi
2005. 3dr hatchback.
Silver.
10 months MoT.
Service history.
£775.
0121 328 1405 / 07980 820505.

commercial vehicles

LOOK

FORD TRANSIT
05 plate, Single wheel pick up, 12 months MoT, new breaks, new clutch, ready to go.
£2,750 ono.
07792 299612.

motorbikes

LOOK

BMW R1150RS
2003 on SORN, 4 years, no MoT,
£750 ono.
Telephone 01922 419694

scrap vehicles

OUR ADVERTISERS are reminded that it is an offence under the Scrap Metal Dealers Act 2013 to buy scrap cars/metal for cash.

ABC AUTO SALVAGE
WANTED URGENT
Scrap & MOT Failures Best Prices Paid ELV Registered Spares Always Available
0121 557 0800 or 0121 557 0400.
Oldbury Area.

vehicles wanted

CROWN MOTORS guarantee best price for your unwanted cars/vans. 07903 549849, buyer will call.

spares & accessories

spares/parts

THULE HIRE & SALES
Roof Boxes, Roof Bars and Cycle carriers.
BEST PRICES.
Wolves Hire
01902 746723
Tettenhall Road, WV6 0LE

9 Local Information

public & legal notices

MICHAEL JESSE BROWN (Deceased)
Pursuant to the Trustee Act 1925 any persons having a claim against or an interest in the Estate of the aforementioned deceased, late of 21 Stonehouse Crescent Wednesbury West Midlands WS10 0DQ, who died on 27/02/2017, are required to send particulars thereof in writing to the undersigned on or before 02/09/2017, after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to claims and interests of which they have had notice.
CO-OP LEGAL SERVICES LIMITED
Aztec 650 Aztec West
Almondsbury Bristol BS32 4SD
(Ref: CDI/4013092P/Brown) T505007

NOEL GEORGE DOUGLAS (Deceased)
Pursuant to the Trustee Act 1925 any persons having a claim against or an interest in the Estate of the aforementioned deceased, late of Veronica House Nursing Home 1 Leabrook Road Ocker Hill Tipton DY4 0DX, who died on 04/01/2016, are required to send particulars thereof in writing to the undersigned Solicitors on or before 01/09/2017, after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to claims and interests of which they have had notice.
ENOCH EVANS LLP
St Paul's Chambers 6-9 Hatherton Road
Walsall WS1 1XS T504843

SANDWELL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL
Regeneration and Planning
Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended)
Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990
Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2015

I hereby give notice that Sandwell Council has received the following applications under the planning acts which it is required to give public notice for the reason given at the beginning of each group of applications.

This is a major application.

DC/17/60558	SMBC Homes and Communities	Land At Carisbrooke Close/ Carisbrooke Crescent Wednesbury	Proposed housing development comprising 28 No. 2 bed houses, 14 No. 3 bed houses, 4 No. 4 bed houses and 4 No. 2 bed flats, with car parking, boundary treatment and associated works.

This is a major application.

DC/17/60359	Mr Richard Unwin Blackacres Limited	117 Station Road Cradley Heath B64 6PL	Proposed partial demolition and conversion of existing premises into 6no. 2 bed and 4no. 1 bed apartments, 4no. new build semi-detached houses.

Members of the public may inspect copies of these applications at Council House, Freeth Street, Oldbury, West Midlands, B69 3DE (between 8.00a.m. and 5.30p.m. Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, 9.00a.m. and 5.30p.m. Wednesday and 8.00a.m. to 5p.m. Friday) or via the Council's Public Access website (www.sandwell.gov.uk).

Anyone who wishes to make representations about these applications can do so via the website, or should write to the Council at the above address within 21 days (and 21 days for Listed Building or Conservation Area consent) of the date of this advertisement quoting the application reference number.

MR NICK BUBALO, Director – Regeneration and Planning

SANDWELL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

The Borough Council of Sandwell Order (Mafeking Road, Smethwick) (Temporary Road Closures) 2017 has made an order to temporarily prohibit vehicles from proceeding along Mafeking Road, Smethwick. Traffic will be diverted via Lewisham Road, Brasshouse Lane, Kimberley Road and vice-versa.The maximum duration is 18 months, but the work necessitating a temporary traffic regulation order is expected to be completed by 14/08/17, effective from 03/07/17.Purpose – to facilitate new storm and foul water connections to a Countrside Properties development by M Lambe Construction Ltd.

The Borough Council of Sandwell Order (New Road / Mount Street, Tipton) (Temporary Prohibition of Turning) 2017 has made an order to temporarily prohibit vehicles from turning left into Mount Street off New Road, Tipton. Traffic will be diverted via Toll End Road, Bridge Road and Horseley Road.The maximum duration is 18 months, but the work necessitating a temporary traffic regulation order is expected to be completed by 12/07/17, effective from 10/07/17.Purpose – to facilitate repairs to a leaking water main by South Staffs Water.

The Borough Council of Sandwell Order (Vicarage Road, West Bromwich) (Temporary Road Closures) 2017 has made an order to temporarily prohibit vehicles from proceeding along Vicarage Road, West Bromwich from its junction with Arlington Road (including the junction itself) to its junction with Heath Lane Traffic will be diverted via Heath Lane, Clarkes Lane, Jowetts Lane, Witton Lane, Hill Top, Black Lake, Church Lane and vice-versa and via Walsall Road, Lyndhurst Road, All Saints Way and Wilford Road for traffic wishing to travel south along Vicarage Road and via Wilford Road, All Saints Way and Heath Lane for traffic wishing to travel north along Vicarage Road.The maximum duration is 18 months, but the work necessitating a temporary traffic regulation order is expected to be completed by 07/08/17, effective from 17/07/17. Purpose – to facilitate works to a gas main by Balfour Beatty on behalf of Cadent Gas Ltd.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Proposed Kelvin Energy Recover Facility -

Notice of Public Exhibition

Verus Energy Oak Ltd invites the public to attend an exhibition regarding the proposed development of an Energy Recovery Facility to be constructed at Giffords Recycling, Kelvin Way, West Bromwich, B70 7JR. The facility will process waste fuel to generate electricity and heat.

The exhibition will take place on the 13th of July between 4pm and 8pm at the Bethel Convention Centre, Kelvin Way, West Bromwich, B70 7JW.

Members of the project team will be in attendance at the Bethel Convention Centre to answer any questions and welcome feedback. You can also send any questions and comments in writing by the 17th of July 2017 by email to info@stephenson-halliday.com or by post to Stephenson Halliday Ltd, 32 Lowther Street, Kendal, LA9 4DH.

Dated 29/06/2017

SANDWELL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

The council has made **The Borough Council of Sandwell (Lyng Lane, West Bromwich) (One-Way Traffic) Order 2017**, effective from 31/07/17, to prohibit any vehicles travelling along Lyng Lane, West Bromwich in a south easterly direction from its junction with Moor Street for a distance of 100m. This will make this section of Lyng Lane a one-way street. An exemption will apply to the police, fire brigade or ambulance service. Full details can be examined at, Highways Services, Sandwell Council House, Freeth Street, Oldbury, West Midlands, B69 3DE during normal office hours and on the council's website. If you wish to question the validity of the Order on the grounds that any aspect of the relevant legislation has not been complied with, you can apply to the High Court by 31/08/17.

LEGAL / PUBLIC NOTICES
For convenience you may fax any advertising requirements to
Marie Hogg on 01902 713146
or email marie.hogg@expressandstar.co.uk
(remember to include a name/contact number for confirmation of receipt)

10 Personals

personal

BUY LOCAL SELL LOCAL
01902 317878

Express & Star DATING

YOUR regional dating service, run by the dating experts who have been established since 1990. **REAL people in YOUR region**

Try it.. You'll love it!

Been left a message? **Pickup** your replies on:
0906 500 3957
calls cost £1.55 per min plus your phone company's access charge.

Here's how to use your dating service ...

To **Place** your advert call:
0844 381 5936
follow the simple instructions. You will also get **£10 SMS CHAT CREDIT**

To **Place** your ad by text
Simply text **REG** followed by your first name, date of birth, area and your advert (max 155 characters) and send t: **80098** (**FREE** Standard Network rates apply.

To **Reply** to members call:
0906 500 3955
calls cost £1.55 per min plus your phone company's access charge.
Have the adverts 6-digit box no written down and do ***key-it-in promptly*** when asked. Don't forget to leave contact details for replies.

To **Reply** by text:
Text... **REPLY26** (leave space) box number (leave space) and then enter your message & send to **80098** eg: **REPLY26** 123456 hi **get in touch...** then send to **80098** Successfully received messages cost £1.50 per SMS received (Max. 160 characters). You must exchange 7 messages each before you can swap contact details. Messages may be moderated for your safety and security.

YOU can now ***Date ONLINE*** or via your mobile just visit:
http://dating.expressandstar.com

THE biggest UK on-line database of 17 million UK REAL users waiting to meet ***you.. visit..*** **http://dating.expressandstar.com**

Single Women

REMEMBER: Calls cost £1.55 per minute plus your phone company's access charge. Texts cost £1.50 per message received.

MANDY divorced independent 46yr old single mum, confident, bubbly and social, looking for male companion to share good times and to be there for each other. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 427581**

KATIE 35yrs, slender well educated brunette seeks no strings mutual pleasure with gent 40+ Must be discreet, married or single. ACA. **Tel: 0906 515 3003 Box 419673**

SUE, 47, attractive lonely brunette who loves evenings in/out, music, WLTM someone sincere to love and get close to, why not give me a call? **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 427549**

JANE, young 41, very broadminded seeks chap any age for discreet no strings fun, any age, no time wasters ACA. **Tel: No: 0906 515 3011 Box: 409715**

JASMINE, Petite Black lady 51yrs, varied interests. Seeking white man for relationship. Looks unimportant. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 427657**

SOPHIA young 40yrs, married but bored, seeks discreet adult fun, any area, all calls answered. **Tel: 0906 515 3019 Box: 413399**

MATURE lady, slim and youthful, divorcee, loves laughter, life and everything. WLTM gent for continued fun and passion. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 427655**

EMILY, mature well educated lady, blonde and smart and broadminded seeks gent any age for no strings fun. ACA. **Tel: 0906 515 3023 Box 421375**

CATHY, 54yr old widow, I'm kind and warm hearted and hoping you will call me. Looks unimportant must have GSOH. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 427653**

TAMIKA, mature black beauty, hourglass figure and open minded. Pls call if you are discreet, broad minded and nice. I can travel and accommodate. ACA. **Tel: 0906 515 3007 Box 422365**

JANE, attractive 50 something lady. I love to cook and care for my man. Is that you? ACA. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 427651**

SAMANTHA, 35yrs, attractive brunette with own business, seeks adventurous gent for casual relationship. **Tel: 0906 515 3035 Box 425979**

SONIA, mature lady, pretty and feminine with fair hair. Loves to socialise, walking, car boot sales and more. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 427647**

HARRIETT 42yrs, blue eyed brunette with long lets and decent curves! Looking for a cheeky adventurous man for fun only. I live alone so can accommodate and can travel. Discretion assured. ACA. Give me a try. **Tel: 0906 515 3031 Box 426205**

JANE 55yrs romantic homely lady, hoping to meet a man for outings, to cook and care for. You won't be sorry if you call. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 427645**

CARMEL, open minded naughty lady seeks a broad minded strict man to unleash her wilder side. Age/looks unimportant but no time wasters please. **Tel: 0906 515 3043 Box 426851**

HELLO I'm 47yrs old, I'm a curvy brunette, varied interests with GSOH, hard working and solvent. WLTM gent taller than me, 5ft3. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 427639**

MICHELLE, 28yrs blue eyed blonde with busty figure. I'm very mature for my age and hope to meet a man to care for. I'm willing to please. Call or text me and I will get straight back to you. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 427649**

CAROLINE, 42yrs, well educated, sophisticated "some call me posh" married lady, looking for no strings midweek liaisons. **Tel: 0906 515 3027 Box 427533**

ATTRACTIVE Irish lady, 34yrs seek gent of any age. I'm caring, attractive with lots of offer, call to hear more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 427637**

EMILY, kind caring lady, recently widowed and lonely. I am 57yrs old and hoping to chat with a nice chap 60+. Please text me. **Text Only. Mailbox 4164240**

HELLO I am a black lady, 60yrs young with a great personality and lovely looks. Call if you are looking to meet someone like me, or text me. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 427585**

TOKKIA, Nigerian lady, very attractive with attractive, caring and kind. I'm a good cook and would love to find a nice man to spoil and pamper. I am late 50s but look young and fit. Seeking gent 58+. **Text Only. Mailbox 4025379**

DEBBIE, young looking 49yrs, pretty brunette lady with lots to offer. If you are interested in a meeting a lady like me then please call me. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 427611**

MANDY, 64yrs but still fit and sexy. Hoping to meet younger local lad for good daytime fun. Chats and texts any time. **Text Only. Box: 4050784**

SUE, 47, attractive lonely brunette who loves evenings in/out, music, WLTM someone sincere to love and get close to, why not give me a call? **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 427549**

TRACY, 68yrs, recently retired and has time on her hands. Would love to meet a much much much younger chap for carefree times. **Text Only. Box: 4006039**

LINDA a lonely petite mature lady looking for nice caring male up to 65yrs who also has lots of love to give for hopeful relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 427487**

HELLO, my name is Pia, I am a very petite, kind and respectful Asian girl, hoping to meet an older white man. I'm 23yrs old and have just moved her. **Text Only. Box: 4177099**

SALLY 37, blue-eyed blonde, who loves life, music, letting my hair down, looking for similar flirty guy for enjoy TLC and life. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 427461**

BECKY, 30 something lady. Full of laughter, very open minded and discreet. Hoping to meet similar minded gent who is older than me. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 427495**

MARGARET is in her 60s, she's young looking, blue-eyed blonde, kind, loving with lots of qualities. Seeking mature gent for mutual life's pleasures. Please call me. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 427493**

CHRISTINE, young looking 43yrs, kind with lovely blue eyes. Genuine, loving. WLTM gent with GSOH, must be older than me. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 427491**

HELLO, I'm 58yrs and called Marie. I'm tall and seeking a man who likes to look at me. I am Black and very sensual. Call me. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 427475**

JANE, mature blonde lady, loves jokes, countryside, driving, cosy nights in. I'm solvent and seek a gent 70+. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 427473**

TRUDY, 70 something lady seeks gent. I'm broadminded and will respond to all calls. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 427471**

BROWN eyed Brummie female 66, smoker, likes music, cinema, theatre, meals out WLTM male, 67-74, for LTR. **Text only. Mailbox: 5877942**

PAULINE, 59yrs, nurse who loves her uniform! I'm married but work odd hours so can meet easily. ACA Text Only. **Box: 4110283**

LADY, early 70s, single, softly rounded, loving, lively, educated, long red hair, artist, seeks tall, tender male. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 427399**

CAROL, brown eyes, brown hair, 5ft3, full time care assistant, own place, likes gardening, TV, WLTM somebody similar who has a car to take me for days out and meals out, hopefully leading to LTR. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 427383**

SALLY 37, blue-eyed blonde, who loves life, music, letting my hair down, looking for similar flirty guy for enjoy TLC and life. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 427461**

CHRISTINA 38 very pretty petite trainee nurse looking for N/S male companionship to enjoy meals/drinks out, leading to more maybe. Age/looks and status unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 427421**

SHARON medium built lovely, 33yrs, pale complexion, nice eyes, feminine, outgoing, confident, enjoys varied interests, WLTM all round nice guy for adult relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 427275**

SUMMER is coming and I don't want to be single! Carole 34, attractive, sensitive, fit. Call me, you wont be disappointed. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 427271**

SHARON medium built lovely, 33yrs, pale complexion, nice eyes, feminine, outgoing, confident, enjoys varied interests, WLTM all round nice guy for adult relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 427275**

OLIVIA, very mature but young at heart lady seeks nice gent for wining, dining more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 427303**

Single Men

STEVE, 55, WLTM a lady for fun on a regular or occasional basis. If you are interested please get in touch. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 427567**

GENUINE male, young 57, medium build, single, kind, caring, good heart, GSOH, seeks attractive lady 35-55 for fun & friendship, possible LTR. **Text only. Mailbox: 5321154**

COLIN, 50, kind, loving, seeks cuddly, large, kind, loving lady, 45-55, for LTR love/romance. Must like cuddles, kisses and holding hands. **Text only. Mailbox: 5892643**

GENT, 65, seeks discreet lady, for special times, mutually beneficial to both, with that special lady. Wolverhampton and surrounding areas. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 427529**

SHAUN, 50, honest, reliable, OHOC, employed, animal lover, likes walks in the country, meals out in country pubs, walking my dogs, looking for my soul mate. If you would like to know more get in touch. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 427497**

JOHN very young 69, seeking mature discreet lady, 40 to 70, for discreet fun. **Text only. Mailbox: 5846609**

TALL, 63-year-old male, seeking n/s female, 45+, for hassle free fun times, in the Wolverhampton and surrounding areas. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424291**

MALE 46, brown hair/eyes, average looks/build, loving, caring, understanding, seeks female to share good times with. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410845**

GENUINE male, 47, 5ft 8ins, average looks, seeking genuine, honest, caring female. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 413945**

JIM, 5ft9, N/S, retired, enjoys holidays abroad and at home, weekends away, days out, meals out, looking to meet a female who enjoys similar interests, for long lasting relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 427305**

HELLO! A friend with benefits, that's how I would describe myself. Mature Birmingham male, would like to be exactly that to an attractive lady. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 427327**

EASYGOING male, 63, genuine, N/S seeks female 50-70 for friendship and romance. Looks unimportant. Likes occasional drink, eating in/out, cinema and driving. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418893**

YOUNG 59 male, separated, looking for lady aged 45 to 60 for adult fun and maybe relationship. **Text only. Mailbox: 5863873**

NICE old-fashioned gent, seeks kind, caring romantic lady for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416905**

MALE, 49, brown hair, brown eyes, average looks, 16 and a half stone, good sense of humour, animal lover with loads of love and security to give to the right person. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418783**

PROFESSIONAL male, 42, been hurt in the past, looking for someone special, 30-42, ACA, single mums are welcome. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 427135**

ADVENTUROUS 36 year old, slim, dark hair, has many interests, seeks female for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417235**

MALE 40 looking for sexy adventurous lady for some mad Summer time partying at my barn conversion with hot tub and countryside. **Text only. Mailbox: 5850530**

GEOFF 46, 5ft 10in, slim build, brown hair, blue eyes, N/S, honest, caring, likes cinema, walking, looking for female, 35-52, for relationship. **Text only. Mailbox: 4172607**

MALE 73, GSOH, looking for a lady any age. I like driving, days out, country walks and possible holidays. **Text only. Mailbox: 5847956**

PHIL, 60, 5ft10, slim build, from Wolve, OHOC, looking for a female, 18-55, for friendship maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 427121**

MALE, 60, looking for a lady, 49-60, to take on my bike/car for days out/meals, to strike up a friendship. **Text only. Mailbox: 5838916**

STU, 42, medium build, 6ft, WLTM a woman, 25-45, for fun, friendship, maybe more. Looks unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 426877**

STUART ex PE Teacher looking for lady to share good times with. Have GSOH, love days out and weekends away, eating out, walking, shopping. **Text only. Mailbox: 5833328**

MALE, 50s, slim, OHAC, from Wolverhampton, looking for a fun lady for a no-strings relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420265**

YOUNG looking 63 year old male, GSOH, friendly, considerate, attractive, looking for a naughty female, any age/status, for adult fun and friendship. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425243**

32 year old male looking for a nice lady for fun, maybe more. **Text only. Mailbox: 5831443**

GENT 48, youthful outlook, likes countryside, keep fit, karaoke, seeks soul mate for fun times. N Shropshire. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 408411**

GENUINE 56yr old male, divorced, OHAC, looking for nice lady for friendship, maybe more. Wolverhampton. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417601**

YOUNG 60 West Midlands male, 5ft 8ins, grey hair, slim to medium build, sexy Scorpio, GSOH, broadminded, seeking an honest sexy lady for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 426621**

MALE N/S, honest, GSOH, car owner, seeks female, 55-70 for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416817**

CARING male, 63, N/S, GSOH, genuine likes music, travel, meals out, casual drink, seeks female, 50-70 for friendship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416997**

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Peugeot's updated 308 is sharp, stylish and imposing

There are new elliptical headlamps

By Dave Brown

We're big fans of the 308 hatchback and estate and although it has proved a sought-after member of the Peugeot range here in the UK, it hasn't quite hit the heights it has reached in its home country, where it sits proudly at the top of its segment in terms of popularity.

On this side of the channel, it is certainly in the top 10, but, as the company admits, 'closer to 10 than one'. Perhaps the comprehensive refresh and price reductions announced this summer will get things moving in the right direction.

The car has new, sharper styling and Peugeot's latest efficient engines and touchscreen connectivity. On the outside, there is an imposing new vertical grille and LED daytime running lights. Inside, Peugeot's i-Cockpit includes a 9.7-inch touchscreen, equipped with 3D satnav and new graphics. The new car builds on the EuroNCAP five-star rating its predecessor achieved with enhanced safety tech to bring it in line with its widely-admired 3008 SUV.

The new car looks great. Sharp, stylish and imposing, it will appeal to parents who are happy with family life but haven't totally forgotten what it's like to have fun behind the wheel. New elliptical headlamps come with integral LED daytime running lights while the rear lights have a distinctive three-claw shape.

Inside the car hasn't been changed too much

Short front and rear overhangs make the car very maneuverable and contribute to excellent road-holding ability.

Allure, GT Line and GT models feature a large glass roof as standard. Comfort levels are fine inside and everything is of a nice quality – there is plenty of room for mum, dad and the kids, although some rivals do offer more space.

Inside the car, not too much has changed over the previous incarnation, with the cabin plush and comfortable. As we've mentioned, the i-Cockpit looks great and adds a sporty feel to a family car but might not be wholly visible through the steering wheel for drivers of certain heights and builds.

The materials used are of high quality, giving the car a welcome, premium feel.

But practicality is key for family buyers of course and the estate features the largest load space in its class (660 litres with the parcel shelf in place; a whopping 1,775 litres with the rear seats folded and the parcel shelf removed).

We had the chance to take the 308 GT (£25,101) on a spin along Germany's fast-paced autobahns, and around the twisty mountain roads on the Germany/Austria border, not far from Salzburg.

It coped with everything we threw at it and provided a genuinely enjoyable and absorbing drive. The i-Cockpit infotainment system works well, while the gearbox is taut and quick and you feel in complete control as you enjoy the drive, try to admire the view from time to time, and dodge the many cyclists and hikers enjoying the scenery.

The Peugeot 308 has seen price reductions of, on average, £650 compared to equivalent models in the outgoing range. In some cases, savings of more than £1,000 can be made. This is a nod perhaps to the fact that the first incarnation of the car hasn't sold as well as hoped in the UK and Peugeot is looking to make up ground on key rivals.

Spec levels are generous, and connectivity is king with the new 308. Safety is to the fore, too, with a range of advanced driver assistance systems such as distance alert and intelligent emergency braking assistance.

Who would buy one? Families, families and more families… at least that's what Peugeot is hoping. Professional people who want something a bit different style-wise but can easily communicate on the move will also be drawn in, no doubt, and the GT and GTi models will appeal to younger drivers too (and people who are young at heart).

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09/59 **CITROEN C3 PICASSO VTR PLUS 1.6 HDi** Green, 27,000 miles **£5,750**

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Hartson nets from the spot against Wolves in 2006

John Hartson celebrates a goal for the Baggies with Nathan Ellington

Hartson enjoys a charity golf day with Stiliyan Petrov and Jon Whitney

Hartson talks candidly about his battle with cancer

Hartson's giving back after battle from brink

FORMER Albion striker John Hartson took no prisoners as a centre forward and doesn't pull any punches when he talks about the day he was told he had cancer.

"I thought I was going to die," he says candidly.

It was back in 2009 that the former Arsenal, Celtic and Wales striker had his worst fears confirmed.

He opened up about his diagnosis and also how it affected his time at The Hawthorns.

Now doing everything he can to raise awareness of testicular cancer through the John Hartson Foundation – there is a reason why the former striker spends most of his time doing charity work.

"I had a lump on my testicles for around four years before I went to see a doctor," the now 42-year-old said. "I know a lot of men are like that. You ignore it. You hope it's going to go away. I was boyish, I wasn't mature enough to face it.

"But that is what I want to change. My testicular cancer had spread to my lungs and brain. When I found out, I sat in my car and I cried.

Waste

"I thought that was it. I wasn't told I had a cold or something. It was cancer and cancer takes good people away from us. I was heartbroken. I was 32 years old and I thought, 'I can't dodge this bullet'."

Hartson's cancer was at such an advanced stage there was no time to waste. Within days he was undergoing brain surgery. He then stopped breathing after contracting pneumonia.

For a month, hospital staff primarily worked to keep him alive rather than treat the cancer.

For Hartson himself, that time is now something of a blur – but he says he cannot forget the impact it had on his family.

"Cancer turns everybody's world upside down," he continued. "It was horrific. Your family members and your close friends actually feel it more than you, the patient.

"The patient is wired up to a machine. You are normally very heavily sedated. But it's your mum and dad, your brother, your sister, your kids – they are taking it home. They are living with it 24/7. My family were asking 'Is John going to live or die today? He has got a big operation tomorrow, a brain operation – is he going to survive?'"

Survive he did. Seven operations – including two on his brain – together with 65 sessions of chemotherapy saw the Swansea-born star defy the odds.

And now he's doing everything he can to make sure more men examine themselves and visit a doctor at the first sign of trouble.

Following his return to health, he launched the John Hartson Foundation to raise awareness of testicular cancer. In typically bullish Hartson fashion, the charity runs with the slogan 'Grab Life by the Balls' and has already raised more than £700,000 to help men diagnosed with the disease.

"I feel very lucky to have lived and that is why I want to give something back," Hartson said. "I set up the charity in 2010 and we have had fantastic support. I am very proud of the money we have raised. But it's more about the awareness."

In a glittering playing career Hartson won 51 caps for Wales and scored more than 100 goals for Celtic.

It was while a youngster at Luton that he first rose to prominence – with his impressive performances persuading Arsenal to make him the most expensive teenager in British football history.

"That was huge," Hartson recalled. "They paid £2.5million for me. George Graham signed me and I'll never forget travelling to Highbury in David Pleat's car.

"I didn't have an agent at the time and David Pleat's phone was ringing every five minutes and he just kept pressing the cancel button because he didn't want to give the move away. I went from £275 a week at Luton to something like £4,000 a week at Arsenal. But that didn't matter. I knew I would make money in my career if I realised my potential. For me it was all about the opportunity and playing for such a fantastic football club."

Following his time with the Gunners, Hartson moved to West Ham and still holds the record of being the last player to score 20 Premier League goals in a season for the Hammers.

That prompted Wimbledon to pay £7.5million for his services in 1999 before he then enjoyed huge success at Celtic. But despite an outstanding career, Hartson admits he wished he performed better in his time as an Albion player.

"I loved it at West Brom and it all started so great for me," he said. "Bryan Robson signed me and Kevin Phillips on the same day. I came from Celtic and had several chats with Bryan over the summer.

"I had Zoltan Gera on one side and Jonathan Greening on the other side. Bryan said you'll get great delivery. It started really well but I do genuinely believe that I was carrying cancer at the time.

Problems

"Bryan then lost his job after seven games. Tony Mowbray came in and I knew all about him because I had played against his Hibs when I was at Celtic.

"The truth is I let Tony down because I wasn't the player he saw at Celtic. I was going through a divorce, I was having a few personal problems.

"But the West Brom fans and everyone at the club were fantastic to me.

"I look back now and West Brom was probably the only club, and I played for eight clubs, where the fans did not see the best of me.

"I had a wonderful career and worked with some seriously talented players and managers. But at Albion it didn't go as well as I would have liked.

"It's shame I couldn't excel there and be the player I was previously because I loved being a Baggie."

Hartson is now enjoying life working with his charity and also in the media.

"I have got five kids, a beautiful wife and I live in Edinburgh. I'm just so grateful to be here, it's amazing to think where I am now to where I was on that day I got my diagnosis."

SPORTING MEMORIES

By Joe Masi

"I feel very lucky to have lived and that is why I want to give something back. We have had fantastic support."

Wednesfield up – but say sorry over leak

WEDNESFIELD have secured promotion to the West Midlands Premier Division after winning their FA appeal. However, the club has apologised over the disclosure of confidential documents during the hearing.

Members of the club's hierarchy travelled to Wembley to appeal against the decision to refuse them promotion to the league's top tier.

Dean Gill's side finished as runners-up in Division One. But following inspection on their Cottage Ground earlier in the season, the club were denied promotion.

After lodging an appeal and meeting FA chiefs at the headquarters in London, the governing body agreed to send down independent inspectors to the Cottage Ground. The inspector was sent to determine whether the stadium meets Premier Division requirements.

But after accidentally releasing confidential documents during the hearing, the club has issued an apology.

"During our appeal Wednesfield disclosed information about the hearing," a statement said.

"This information was private and confidential. We would therefore like to apologise to the FA and the WMRL for this error."

Canoeing club makes waves at competition

A CANOEING club made a splash at the National and Open Master Sprint Championship Regatta, with a number of successes.

Gailey Canoe Club won four golds, two silvers and one bronze in the competition at the National Water Sports Centre in Nottingham.

Bruce Blackman and Paul Brookes claimed silver in the K2, or two person kayak, 200m and 1000m sprints. They posted times of 45.37 seconds and four minutes, nine seconds – despite receiving a penalty point. That was followed by a bronze in the 500m, finishing with in 1:58.

Success followed in the under-12s lightning category, with Haydn Cooke-Bayley being part of three winning teams. He won gold in the K1, or one person kayak, and triumphed in the K2 with Lewis Andrews, from Leamington Spa.

Cooke-Bayley also won the K4, or four person kayak, category alongside club members Molly Cooke, Madison Cooke and Andrews.

In the women's races, Chelsea Brookes struck gold in the K2 200m with Kate Gritsinina from Southampton – the first time they had paddled together. Club secretary Louise Clive said: "We are delighted that the hard work of our members has paid off."

Football club's brace of community awards

WYRLEY Juniors FC has secured a double success. The club was awarded the Staffordshire FA Community Club of the Year – and secured the same accolade for the north west region, which covers Manchester, Liverpool, Lancashire, Cumbria and Cheshire counties as well as Staffordshire.

The awards were presented at the FA awards at Stoke City's Bet365 Stadium. They recognise the club's efforts in increasing participation and providing wellbeing sessions. Wyrley's teams have grown in two years from 48 to 65, and will rise to 70 next season.

Wyrley Juniors runs two soccer schools, has become a sister club to Birmingham City Ladies and holds mash-up sessions for girls at a local high school. It assisted UEFA in a girls' motivation study and it is actively involved in the new county female coaching group.

In the community it organises coffee mornings, donates Christmas presents to Birmingham Children's Hospital, distributes items to foodbanks and raises £1,000 a year for the Royal British Legion via its stick-on poppy appeal. Anyone interested in joining the club should contact chairman Keith Hardy on 07836 202764.

Sport

Big John pulls no punches on battle back from brink

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Impressive win during heated night

BIRMINGHAM battled their way to an impressive 46-44 win over a powerful Lakeside outfit at Perry Barr.

On the hottest day of the year, the Surestop Brummies turned the heat on too as they denied the Hammers a fifth straight Travel Plus National League victory.

While former Brummie Zach Wajtknecht scored a 15 point maximum on his return to Perry Barr, Graham Drury's men did enough to seal another invaluable three points and extend their unbeaten home run in the league.

Said Drury: "First and foremost, full credit to both sets of riders. They gave it their all in absolutely horrendous conditions heat wise and they put on a great meeting of entertainment for the supporters."

Tom Bacon scored double figures for the fifth meeting in a row since moving down from the No.1 position and was duly awarded the Ductair Electrics Ltd Rider of the Night Award.

Guest reserve Taylor Hampshire bagged himself two race wins as well as a stunning manoeuvre around the outside in heat 12 to secure a pivotal second place in a 5-1 at an important stage of the meeting.

BIRMINGHAM 46: Tom Bacon 12, Taylor Hampshire 9+1, Liam Carr 9, David Mason 6+1, Jack Parkinson-Blackburn 6, Layne Cupitt 3+2, Alex Spooner 1.
LAKESIDE 44: Zach Wajtknecht 15, Ben Morley 11+2, Alfie Bowtell 6+1, Connor Locke 5+1, Paul Hurry 5, Jamie Couzins 2, Nick Laurence 0.

Meanwhile, the Brummies have won the race to sign talented teen Taylor Hampshire. The 16-year-old was a member of the King's Lynn Young Stars squad until they withdrew from the league last month. Since then he has made several guest bookings for a whole host of teams – and scored a crucial 9+1 for Birmingham in Wednesday's 46-44 home win over Lakeside.

Ali keeps form as Dartmouth prove too good

STAFFS skipper Kadeer Ali helped West Bromwich Dartmouth to a nine-wicket Premier League win over Kidderminster, who slumped from 103-1 to 179 all out, Sultan Afsal taking 5-43.

In reply, Ali, who scored a hundred in each innings for the Minor Counties side in the week, remained unbeaten on 76 as Dartmouth cruised home. He and Amit John (68) put on 151 for the first wicket.

A third ton in four innings from Kiwi George Worker eased Knowle & Dorridge home against Walsall and they now head the table.

Worker (104 no) and Alex Phillips (61) saw the visitors home without loss. Worker, who has played T20 cricket for New Zealand, took three Walsall wickets, along with Ateeq Javid.

Worcester player Alexei Kervezee shone with a century and three wickets in Bromsgrove's drawn match at Smethwick. He hit 113 from 94 balls in a total of 232, with three wickets apiece for Smethwick's Mo Sheikh (3-71) and Gurinder Singh (3-81). In reply, Amrinder Brar top scored with 43 as Smethwick closed on 210 for nine.

Champ Aimee-Leigh pulling no punches

FROM first putting on a pair of boxing gloves to becoming a national champion – it has been a whirlwind few months for Aimee-Leigh Phillips.

The 14-year-old, who trains out of Darlaston Boxing Gym, based at the town hall, has progressed rapidly and is now the England Boxing Schools Champion.

She beat Rose Paige, from North Star Boxing in Sunderland, on a split decision in the 62kg weight class at Bowlers Exhibition Centre, Manchester and was awarded a pair of golden gloves for her sterling efforts.

Tony Marshall, from Coseley, head coach at the gym, spoke of immense pride on Phillips' huge achievement and said: "What can I say?

"She came in eight months ago, and she had never stepped foot in a gym – never mind a boxing gym. She came along with a friend and asked if she could have a go, she was keen to get involved, and the rest is history.

"Aimee-Leigh stood her ground in sparring. After that, we started putting in a few fights, put her in the schools competition and she won it."

Aimee-Leigh Phillips, of Darlaston Boxing Club

Phillips, whose stance is orthodox, only had her first fight in February of this year, getting a stoppage in the second round of the bout.

She was the only fighter from the Black Country to come out on top at the England Boxing Schools Championship too. Her phenomenal progress has not gone unnoticed either as she has been invited to train with the England squad once a month at their camp in Sheffield.

When asked how far she could go, Marshall said: "I think it is up to her, it comes down to how much she wants it. She's got huge potential and she is already starting training with the England squad in Sheffield, she will be going up there once a month. They are keeping an eye on her.

"Every single night in the build up to the competition, she was down here. We were practising hand shots and things like that – and all the hard work has paid off.

"I have to pinch myself really as its quite unreal, it's like our own little Rocky story, added Marshall.

Darlaston Boxing Gym has only been open for 18 months, with Marshall teaching youngsters and adults with the help of coaches Jamie Ricketts and Peyman B, as he is known by students.

Sessions are put on for children aged 8 to 10, up to 13, and then 14 onwards with adults at the club. For more information on how to get involved, log on to Facebook and search Darlaston Boxing Gym.

RICKY HOPES TO UPSET THE ODDS

RICKY Summers' backers will be quids in if their man becomes the British light heavyweight champion on Saturday night.

Tipton's Summers is 10-1 with most bookmakers to take the belt away from defending titlist Frank Buglioni this weekend.

And the 29-year-old believes he can upset the odds and seize the crown away from the former world title challenger.

The two clash at the top of the bill at the 02 Arena in London, with Matchroom Boxing's end-of-season show broadcast live on Sky Sports.

Summers is unbeaten with 13 wins from 13 pro bouts with five TKOs, although he's never boxed outside of the West Midlands in the paid ranks.

Buglioni, 28, has 19 wins with 15 stoppages with two defeats and one draw, with one of those losses on points to Fedor Chudinov for the WBA world title at super middle.

He's also been beaten and halted in six by Siarhei Khamitski for the WBO European crown and drawn with Lee Markham for the same honours.

The Londoner is plotting the road past his voluntary defence and is even talking about a rematch with Hosea Burton, who he stopped in the 12th round for the British title.

Summers' fans think looking past his immediate test is disrespectful, but the challenger is of the opinion it's only mind games.

He said: "They don't call him 'the Wise Guy' for nothing, he's a smart kid. He probably wants to think that he's underestimated me.

"I've seen on social media that's training hard and I'm expecting the best Frank Buglioni on the night. That's what I want.

"This is what boxing is all about, I've waited a long time to get here and I'm confident I can get the job done. This is my world title fight."

Club to try for more players

Wednesbury players seen celebrating their Owen Cup win for the 2016-17 season

WEDNESBURY Rugby Club are recruiting players for the coming season.

Bosses are looking for players with proven experience, but also people who have never played rugby but would like to give it a go.

Wednesbury are an ambitious club with all the facilities to help players to train and play. Pre-season training starts on Saturday, July 8, at 3.30pm, followed with a barbecue and drinks, to get training under way and make any new players feel welcome. Sessions will follow every Tuesday and Thursday from 7-8.30pm.

Anyone interested is asked to call Neil Haines on 07950 505171 or turn up on training night at Woden Road North, Wednesbury.

Call 0121 502 2477.

ALBION FIXTURES

aug	12	**Bournemouth**	h
	19	Burnley	a
	26	**Stoke**	h
sep	9	Brighton	a
	16	**West Ham**	h
	23	Arsenal	a
	30	**Watford**	h
oct	14	Leicester	a
	21	Southampton	a
	28	**Man City**	h
nov	4	Huddersfield	a
	18	**Chelsea**	h
	25	Tottenham	a
	28	**Newcastle**	h
dec	2	**Crystal Palace**	h
	9	Swansea	a
	13	Liverpool	a
	16	**Man Utd**	h
	23	Stoke	a
	26	**Everton**	h
	30	**Arsenal**	h
jan	1	West Ham	a
	13	**Brighton**	h
	20	Everton	a
	31	Man City	a
feb	3	**Southampton**	h
	10	Chelsea	a
	24	**Huddersfield**	h
mar	3	Watford	a
	10	**Leicester**	h
	17	Bournemouth	a
	31	**Burnley**	h
apr	7	**Swansea**	h
	14	Man Utd	a
	21	**Liverpool**	h
	28	Newcastle	a
may	5	**Tottenham**	h
	13	Crystal Palace	a

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